



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

September 2014

The CNE has come and gone, yesterday was rainy and last evening was jeans and windbreaker weather...summer is coming to its end and fall is in the air. And, other than that, I got nothing for you, so...

JD's Picks

I've been a fan of **LOUISE WELSH's** books since her very first, Cutting Room (\$19.95), and by now I've read most of them and thoroughly enjoyed them. She has never used an ongoing character, although that now seems likely to change. Her new novel, A Lovely Way to Burn (#1) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$22.99 trade paperback), is the first in what's being called the Plague Times Trilogy. Torontonians will remember vividly the SARS crisis of the first half of 2003 which resulted in a number of deaths, and, but for the hard work of medical professionals the world over, could have been much, much worse. In this first of the trilogy, a pandemic called the "Sweats" is sweeping the globe and London is a city in crisis. People are dying, others are taking matters into their own hands and doing what it takes to protect their little bits of the city, their turf. The sick and dying form vast armies of zombie-like creatures, wandering around dazed and dying. In this frightening, dystopian landscape, Stevie Flint is one of the lucky few who had the natural immunity to fight off the sweats but her boyfriend, Dr. Simon Sharkey is not so lucky. Among all this death and despair, it seems that he's been murdered. It's Stevie's search for the answers to the whom and the why of his death that then propels the story at it reckless, frantic pace. By the time I was three-quarters of the way thru, Stevie's unrelenting search for answers seems a little forced—if the city is rapidly disintegrating around you, no electricity, no water, roving gangs of marauders and looters, everyone is dying—are you really going to spend this kind of energy and put your life at

Come meet two local writers

M. H. CALLWAY

who will launch her debut novel

WINDIGO FIRE (\$19.95)

Saturday, October 18, 4 - 6 pm at Sleuth

&

MAUREEN JENNINGS

who will launch her third Tom Tyler mystery

No Known Grave (#3) (\$24.95)

Thursday, October 30, 6 - 8:30pm

at Dora Keough, 141 Danforth Rd., Toronto

considerable risk to find the answer? But that little quibble aside, wow, what a terrific read. Now I'm waiting for parts two and three! Thank you Louise for another super entertainment.

The latest **C J BOX** novel, Stone Cold (#14) (\$31) was released about six months ago, and a collection of short stories, Shots Fired (\$31), a few weeks ago, and that reminded me of how superb a series these novels featuring Joe Pickett is. If you have not come across this series, I would highly recommend that you order a copy of Open Season (#1) (\$16) and be blown away by it. I recently re-read Open and it was as fresh and entertaining the second time around as I remember it having been the first time. This is very much **Craig Johnson** country and quality.

The Cuckoo's Calling (#1) (\$20) by **ROBERT GALBRAITH** aka **J K ROWLING** is very, very good as well. I must be one of the very few non-HP fans but I found this one very much to my taste. You'll get to love Cormoran Strike our damaged hero as he attempts to sort out this complicated case and, even more, you'll adore his temp, Robin Ellacott. I kept hoping that she'd dump her prissy boyfriend and take up with Strike—I know, I know, every old fart's wet dream,

The Merchant of Menace.

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Hours of Business

Thursday to Saturday: 10 to 6
Sunday: Noon - 4pm
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
& Statutory Holidays:
Closed

We're often here outside of business hours, so call/e-mail, and check.

a gorgeous, 20-something to change his diapers—and she may well, but that'll have to wait for the second novel. A little overly long, but, that's my pretty constant beef. And the best news, you don't have to wait for the sequel, [Silkworm](#) (#2) (\$31). Thoroughly enjoyable.

STUART MACBRIDE's first Detective Constable Ash Henderson novel, [Birthdays for the Dead](#) (#1) (\$15.99) is dark, gritty, tough, violent, intense, awful, sad, infuriating, but compelling, brilliant, unput-downable. Well, I did put it down *any* number of times as the story was more than I could stomach, but not for long. That there are such damaged people out there who can inflict so much pain and misery on other humans, is, unfortunately, reality, but I don't really want to read about it. Nonetheless...not sure why I picked up this, but I did, and read nothing else for the couple of days that I spent with Ash. The sequel [Song For the Dying](#) (#2) (\$32.99/\$19.99) is available, but I'm going to need a little while before I tackle it.

Marian's going to tell you about [Last of the Independents](#) (\$17.99) by **SAM WIEBE** a little further on, so I'll say little about it. Other than that I read it as well and was very impressed with this debut effort. .

Marian's Picks

It's the summer and my brain and I are both on vacation. So much so that I, too, am having a hard time coming up with something interesting to tell you. So, I won't try. Except, of course, to tell you about Percy's foot. The Most Magnificent Dog in the World has been suffering from a cut to the pad of one of his paws. How he did it I don't have a clue. I made him wear one of his dad's socks for a few days but his paw doesn't seem to be healing as fast as I think it should. I've cleaned it. It's been soaked in Epsom Salts and I used Polysporin to keep it "clean". When I take the sock off (I don't want it on his foot 24/7), he wants to keep licking it. Poor puppy. The vet says he is going to be just fine but I still worry.

However, I have been reading, and I have read some terrific book in the past few weeks. There was [Personal](#) (\$32) by **LEE CHILD** and [Long Way Home](#) (\$29.99) by **LOUISE PENNY**, two terrific reads from two of my favourite writers and what a pleasure it was to have the two of them to devour this summer. And a new one to me, **CHELSEA CAIN**. I had always thought her earlier works a little too dark and gritty for my taste—but I might have to revisit that conclusion having been blown away by her new mystery, [One Kick](#) (#1) (\$29.99).

And there is a new Canadian writer, **SAM WIEBE**, who is going to take the mystery community by storm with his debut mystery. He is the winner of the 2012 Unhanged Arthur, which is awarded by the Crime Writers of Canada to the best crime novel by a previously unpublished Canadian writer. Part of the prize package, along with the award and cash, is potentially a publishing contract from Dundurn. I loved the book and so did Cottage Lady who said "...this guy can write". (Remember her? She is still busy with her two grandchildren). [The Last of the Independents](#) (\$17.99) introduces Michael Drayton, a Vancouver private eye who specializes in finding missing people. The book is very edgy, (it's being called Vancouver Noir), violent and tough in parts, but there is a subtle sense of humour that worked for me. I loved it. Besides our hero, Michael Drayton, there are a couple of other characters that I'm looking forward to seeing again: Katherine, she of the great kick-ass attitude and his part-time assistant, who is always on the verge of quitting and going back to school; and Ben, who is a bit of a nerd and likes hanging out at Michael's of-

fice because Michael is still working on his missing sister's case. Futile as Michael thinks the effort is, he doesn't have the courage to tell Ben's mother that the chances of the young girl being alive are slim, and because he is offended by the little effort that others put into searching for her, and he thinks he should keep trying. These three characters, and how perfectly well they mesh, certainly kept me glued to the story. Tough, but so well written. Give **Mr. Wiebe** a whirl and not only will you get an entertaining read, you'll be encouraging a budding Canadian writer.

[One Kick](#) (\$29.99) by **CHELSEA CAIN** is another very tough, disturbing read, but one I could not put down; I sat up well into the night finishing it. The subject matter is something none of us ever want to talk about (child pornography) but give the book a chance. It is fantastic and by the end you will feel that justice has been served. Even if there was a lot of pounding of heart, wrenching of gut, tears and rage along the journey. Kick Lannigan is a very disturbed woman who carries a gun and has lived half her life with the memory of her abduction as a child. She is a terrific heroine, looking to avenge other missing kids, always responding to Amber Alerts and never one to shy away from any situation. I had not read the jacket blurb—"Himself handed me the book with a 'you-like-Modesty-Blaise-don't-you?' commentary and that's how it ended up going home with me—nor really knew where the story was going, which is probably why I started it. Even by the end of the first chapter I wasn't sure, but I had a suspicion, but by then it was too late. This is a non-stop read—I didn't even want to take Percy out for his walks—I just wanted to finish it. I have found a new author and I will now go back and read [Heart-sick](#) (#1) (\$9.99 mass market or \$18.50 trade paperback), the first of her six Det. Archie Sheridan and serial killer Gretchen Lowell series.

By page 18 of [Long Way Home](#) (\$29.99) by **LOUISE PENNY** I was in tears and by page 29 my heart was bursting with joy. And that's the way my emotions fluctuated throughout this entire novel, sometime laughing, other times, crying. How lucky we are to have such a gifted writer around to entertain us. This was another novel I just jumped into, without wanting or needing to know the plot description, so I had no idea what to expect. It turns out to be very different from the earlier Inspector Gamache novels. Here, Gamache has retired to Three Pines with his wife, Reine-Marie, so life has become much more serene. (Don't you wish you could live there?) Clara comes to Gamache with a problem and even though he wants to "take the lead" and set off in search of answers, he defers to Clara and lets her decide what's to be done. Just great, great storytelling with all the characters that I have come to love. I especially like Ruth and of course, Rosa, her duck, and in this book they play a key role along with Reine-Marie and Myrna. How can you go wrong? Just magnificent.

LEE CHILD writes fast moving, action packed thrillers that don't stop from beginning to end and [Personal](#) (\$32) is no exception. A sniper has taken a shot at the President of France—*Royal? Trierweiler? Or maybe Gayet? Yuk, yuk. -JD.*—from a distance of ¾ of a mile. Very few snipers can shoot that accurately from that distance and, one of them, has just been released from fifteen years in prison. He was put there by Jack Reacher and if Reacher can get him once, he can do it again. Teaming up with an analyst—reluctantly as Reacher likes to work alone—can they find him before the coming up G8 meeting? This is vintage **Child**, and vintage Reacher. And terrific.

Vanessa's Picks

My mom read [The Butterfly Sister](#) (\$16.99) by **AMY GAIL HAN-**

SEN first and raved about the book. She said it kept her on the edge of her seat, and I had to read it (there was more emphasis to that line than I can do justice to with the written word). Twenty-two-year old Ruby Rousseau dropped out of the women's college she was attending, when a married professor broke her heart. Ruby is now writing obituaries for a living and struggling to forget the past, until a suitcase belonging to a former classmate appears on her doorstep. Beth has gone missing and the suitcase is the only clue to her whereabouts. Within the bag is a copy of **VIRGINIA WOOLF's A Room of One's Own** (\$19.99), the book Ruby believes to be the cause of her own madness. She is haunted by the ghosts of women writers who committed suicide. The penciled notes in the margin draw her back to the college, and the dark mystery hidden within its walls. I loved the settings, and could almost taste the powdered sugar on the *beignet* in the café in New Orleans. I wasn't as enthusiastic about the ending as my mom was, but it is a great, suspenseful read.

My summer decadence this past month has been to devour the historical mysteries by **SUSANNA KEARSLEY** and **JANE JOHNSON**. Both are wonderful authors who interweave the past and the present with a bit of romance and a dash of fate. I loved The Splendour Falls (\$14.99), The Winter Sea (\$11.99), Named of the Dragon and Season of Storms (\$17.99 each) all by **Kearsley**. The Tenth Gift (#1) (\$19.95) by **Johnson**, with its exotic settings, Barbary pirates and the story-line spanning generations, was a book I read in a day. The insight into white slavery in North Africa in the 17th century was fascinating. What I enjoyed the most though was the fact that **Johnson** wrote the novel after research into her own family history took her to Morocco, where she met and married her own 'Berber pirate'. The Sultan's Wife (#3) (\$22.95) is now at the top of my TBR pile.

Hardbacks

AIRD, CATHERINE sloan DEAD HEADING (#23) (\$35.99) When Jack Haines reports a break-in at his greenhouse, the motive of the intruder is unclear. Other than the destruction of some expensive orchids, no damage has been done and nothing seems to be missing. But Detectives Sloan and Crosby sense something sinister, and soon their suspicions are confirmed. Similar reports are multiplying and sabotage is the word on everyone's lips.

AIRTH, RENNIE RECKONING (#4) (\$32.99 hardcover, \$22.95 trade paperback) On a quiet afternoon in 1947, retired bank manager Oswald Gibson is shot in the head while fishing. In Scotland, a respectable family doctor is killed in the same manner - and with the same gun. What is the connection? Scotland Yard's Detective Inspector Billy Styles and local detective Vic Chivers are baffled until a letter from Gibson is discovered that might shed some light on the case, a letter concerning former Scotland Yard detective John Madden. Despite Madden's legendary memory, he has no recollection of meeting Gibson or any idea of what their relationship might have been. Madden is happily retired from police work, but agrees to help his former protégé, Styles, and the clues they uncover only deepen the mystery. When a third man is killed in a similar murder, Madden and Styles find themselves in a race against time to find the killer before another man ends up dead.

ALBERT, SUSAN W darling DARLING DAHLIAS & SILVER DOLLAR BUSH (#5) (\$28.95) It's the spring of 1933 and times are tough all over. The only businessman not struggling is moonshiner Mickey LeDoux, though he still has to steer clear of the feds. But banks are closing all over the country, and the small town of Darling is no exception. Folks are suddenly caught short on cash and everyone is in a panic. Desperate to avoid disaster, several town leaders, in-

cluding Alvin Duffy, the bank's new vp, hatch a plan to print Darling Dollars on newspaperman Charlie Dickens' printing press. The "funny money" can serve as temporary currency so the town can function. But when the first printing of the scrip disappears...

BERENSON, LAURIEN travis DEATH OF A DOG WHISPERER (#17) (\$26.95) Between her boisterous sons and a house full of Poodles, six of the darlings, there's never a dull moment for Melanie Travis. But no matter how hectic life gets, she can always pick up the scent of a howling good mystery. It's summer in Connecticut and Nick Walden, a self-proclaimed "dog whisperer" with an uncanny gift for decoding dog-speak, is a hit. The rich dog owners of Fairfield County are lapping up his alleged talents, anxious to discover exactly what their pampered pets are thinking, that is until the pooches start spilling their secrets. When Nick is discovered dead in his home, his sister Claire enlists Melanie to help track down the killer. **BOWEN, RHYS royals QUEEN OF HEARTS (#8)** (\$28.95) Lady Georgiana Rannoch, thirty-fifth in line for the British throne, knows how to play the part of an almost royal, but now she's off to Hollywood, where she must reprise her role as sleuth or risk starring in an all-too-convincing death scene. You see, her mother, the glamorous and much-married actress, is hearing wedding bells once again, which is why she must hop across the pond for a quickie divorce in Reno. To offer moral support, and since all expenses are paid by the new hubby-to-be, Max, Georgiana agrees to make the voyage with her. Crossing the Atlantic, with adventure in the air and wealthy men aboard, Mother all but forgets about Max and matrimony, especially when movie mogul Cy Goldman insists on casting her in his next picture. Meanwhile, Georgiana finds herself caught up in the secret investigation of a suspected jewel thief. Lucky for her, the lead investigator happens to be her dashing beau, Darcy!

CAIN, CHELSEA Iannigan ONE KICK (#1) (\$29.99) Excellent, says herself. See *Marian's Picks*.

CARTER, STEPHEN L BACK CHANNEL (\$33) October 1962. The Soviet Union has smuggled missiles into Cuba. Kennedy and Khrushchev are in the midst of a military face-off that could lead to nuclear conflagration. Warships and submarines are on the move. Planes are in the air. Troops are at the ready. Both leaders are surrounded by advisers clamoring for war. The only way for the two leaders to negotiate safely is to open a "back channel", a surreptitious path of communication hidden from their own people. They need a clandestine emissary nobody would ever suspect. If the secret gets out, her life will be at risk, but they're careful not to tell her that. An amalgam of fact and fiction—a retelling of the Cuban Missile Crisis, in which the fate of the world rests unexpectedly on the shoulders of a young college student.

CARVER, TANIA BLACK ROAD (#4) aka choked (\$28.95) Detective Inspector Phil Brennan and criminal psychologist Marina Esposito have just returned from their honeymoon and are spending the Easter weekend in Suffolk with their baby daughter Josephina and Phil's adoptive parents. But their rural idyll is cruelly destroyed. After a devastating arson attack on the cottage, Josephina goes missing. With Phil in a coma, Marina is alone when she receives the first phone call. The kidnappers say that if Marina ever wants to see her daughter alive again, she has to do exactly what they say.

CHILD, LEE reacher PERSONAL (#19) (\$32) Terrific say herself... See *Marian's Picks*.

COEL, MARGARET wind river NIGHT OF THE WHITE BUFFALO (#18) (\$31) Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden and Father John O'Malley confront a ruthless killer in the wake of a miraculous event. A mysterious penitent confesses to murder, and then flees the confessional before Father John can identify him. Two months later, Vicky discovers rancher Dennis Carey shot dead in his truck along Blue Sky Highway. With the tragic news comes the exposure of an astonishing secret: the most sacred creature in Native American mythology, a

white buffalo calf, was recently born on Carey's ranch. Making national headlines, the miraculous animal draws a flood of pilgrims to the reservation, frustrating an already difficult investigation. As visitors throw the reservation into turmoil, Vicky and Father John try to unravel the strange events surrounding both Carey's murder and the recent disappearances of three cowboys from his ranch.

CRIDER, BILL dan rhodes HALF IN LOVE WITH ARTFUL DEATH (#21) (\$28.99) The local community college and an antique dealer team up to have a workshop for artists. Who would have thought that this simple act would result in vandalizing paintings, a near riot, runaway donkeys, a robbery at a local convenience store and death. Our prime suspect has been killed, his head bashed in with a bust of Dale Earnhardt, Jr. Oh yes, not to mention a naked woman in a roadside park and a gang of meth-cookers. It seems as if a Sheriff's work is never done.

CUMMING, CHARLES COLDER WAR (\$31) A top-ranking Iranian military official is blown up while trying to defect to the West. An investigative journalist is arrested and imprisoned for writing an article critical of the Turkish government. An Iranian nuclear scientist is assassinated on the streets of Tehran. These three incidents, seemingly unrelated, have one crucial link. Each of the three had been recently recruited by Western intelligence, before being removed or killed. Then Paul Wallinger, MI6's most senior agent in Turkey, dies in a puzzling plane crash. Fearing the worst, MI6 bypasses the usual protocol and brings disgraced agent Tom Kell in from the cold to investigate. Kell soon discovers what Wallinger had already begun to suspect, that there's a mole somewhere in the Western intelligence, a traitor who has been systematically sabotaging scores of joint intelligence operations in the Middle East.

DAHEIM, MARY mcmonigle CLAM WAKE (#29) (\$31.99) Innkeeper and irrepressible sleuth Judith McMonigle Flynn and Cousin Renie face off against a slippery, cold-blooded killer in a beach community.

DOWNIE, RUTH medicus TABULA RASA (#6) (\$30) The medicus Ruso and his wife Tilla are back in the borderlands of Britannia, this time helping to tend the builders of Hadrian's Great Wall. Having been forced to move off their land, the Britons are distinctly on edge and are still smarting from the failure of a recent rebellion that claimed many lives. Then Ruso's recently arrived clerk, Candidus, goes missing. A native boy thinks he sees a body being hidden inside the wall's half-finished stonework, and a worrying rumour begins to spread.

EWAN, CHRIS DEAD LINE (\$29.99) If you're a security expert, what do you do if your fiancée suddenly goes missing, presumably kidnapped? If you're Daniel Trent, a highly trained specialist in hostage negotiation, the answer is simple: You find out who took her and you make them talk. But what if your chief suspect has been kidnapped as well? Again simple: first you get him back and then interrogate him on the whereabouts of his fiancée. Set in Marseille, a stand-alone thriller from the author of the Good Thief series.

FREEMAN, BRIAN bolton SEASON OF FEAR (#2) (\$50) An expensive British import. Lake Wales, Central Florida. Ten years ago, a political fundraiser became a bloodbath when a hooded assassin carried out a savage public execution. Three men were massacred, casting a dark shadow over the Sunshine State.

A decade on, history is threatening to repeat itself. The widow of one victim, herself now running for governor, has received an anonymous threat, a newspaper clipping from that fateful day, along with the chilling words 'I'm back.'

Florida detective Cab Bolton agrees to investigate. Sequel to Bone House (#1) (\$14.99).

FRENCH, TANA dublin SECRET PLACE (#5) (\$32.95) Detective Stephen Moran has been waiting for his chance to get a foot in the door of Dublin's Murder Squad and one morning, sixteen-year-

old Holly Mackey brings him a photo that just might reignite the stalled investigation into the murder of handsome, popular Chris Harper and be Stephen's ticket into the Murder Squad.

GRANGER, ANN ross TESTIMONY OF THE HANGED MAN (#5) (\$32.99 hard cover, \$22.99 trade paperback) A man about to be hanged would say anything to save his life. But what if his testimony is true? When Inspector Ben Ross is called to Newgate Prison by a man condemned to die by the hangman's noose he isn't expecting to give any credence to the man's testimony. But the account of a murder he witnessed over seventeen years ago is so utterly believable that Ben can't help wondering if what he's heard is true.

GREGORY, SUSANNA bartholomew DEATH OF A SCHOLAR (#20) (\$32.99) The University should have been delighted when an influential courtier decides to found a new College in Cambridge, but the older Colleges are jealous of the newcomer's ostentatious wealth, and the townsfolk bitterly resent yet another academic foundation thrust into their midst. Tensions between town and gown rise further still when physician Matthew Bartholomew snatches an unpopular felon from the jaws of death, an incident that coincides with a sudden increase in violent crime across the whole region. As the new College is about to receive the charter that will make it an official part of the University, an arrow flies through the air and kills the Junior Proctor. With the townsfolk and the scholars blaming each other for the murder, Bartholomew and his friend Brother Michael must find the culprit before the whole region erupts in a frenzy of recrimination.

HOLT, JONATHAN carnivia ABDUCTION (#2) (\$33.50 hard cover, \$22.99 trade paperback) Marian's new favourite writer. See paperback section for an annotation. The first in this series set in Venice is Abomination (\$16.99).

KELLERMAN, FAYE decker MURDER 101 (#22) (\$33.50 hard cover, \$21.99 trade paperback) Decker and Lazarus embark on a new life in upstate New York and find themselves entangled in deception, intrigue, and murder in a picturesque elite college town.

KOENIG, JOSEPH REALLY THE BLUES (\$28.95) Paris, 1941. American jazz musician Eddie Piron has lived in the city of light since before the war began. But Paris under occupation is not what it once was, and things are looking a lot darker for a man like Eddie. The great jazz artists of the day, like Django Reinhardt, are lying low or being swept away under the racial policies of the Nazis. But the SS has a paradoxical taste for the "negermusik" and their favorite gathering place is La Caverne Negre, where Eddie leads the band. When the drummer in his band is found facedown in the Seine and the police start asking questions, he realizes that his trouble is only beginning.

KRUEGER, WILLIAM KENT cor WINDIGO ISLAND (#14) (\$29.99) When the body of a teenage Ojibwe girl washes up on the shore of an island in Lake Superior, the residents of the nearby Bad Bluff reservation whisper that it was the work of a deadly mythical beast, the Windigo, or a vengeful spirit called Michi Peshu. Such stories have been told by the Ojibwe people for generations, but they don't explain how the girl and her friend, Mariah Arceneaux, disappeared a year ago. At the request of the Arceneaux family, Cork O'Connor, former sheriff turned P.I., takes on the case.

LARSSON, ASA martinsson SECOND DEADLY SIN (#5) (\$26.99) Dawn breaks in a forest in northern Sweden and villagers gather to dispatch a rampaging bear. When the beast is brought to ground they are horrified to find the remains of a human hand inside its stomach. In nearby Kiruna, a woman is found murdered in her bed, her body a patchwork of vicious wounds, the word WHORE scrawled across the wall. Her grandson Marcus, already an orphan, is nowhere to be seen. Grasping for clues, Rebecka Martinsson begins to delve into the victim's tragic family history. But with doubts over her mental health still lingering, she is ousted from the case by an arrogant and ambitious young prosecutor. Before long a chance lead draws Martinsson back into the thick of the action and her legendary cour-

age is put to the test once more.

LITTLE, ELIZABETH DEAR DAUGHTER (\$31) A debut thriller featuring an unforgettable heroine who just might have murdered her mother. Former "It Girl" Janie Jenkins is sly, stunning, and fresh out of prison. Ten years ago, at the height of her fame, she was incarcerated for the murder of her mother, a high-society beauty known for her good works and rich husbands. Now, released on a technicality, Janie makes herself over and goes undercover, determined to chase down the one lead she has on her mother's killer. The only problem? Janie doesn't know if she's the killer she's looking for.

MARON, MARGARET knott DESIGNATED DAUGHTERS (#19) (\$30) When Judge Deborah Knott is summoned to her ailing Aunt Rachel's bedside, she assumes the worst. Thankfully when she arrives at the hospice centre she learns that Rachel hasn't passed; in fact, the dying woman is awake. Surrounded by her children, her extended family, and what seems like half of Colleton County, a semi-conscious Rachel breaks weeks of pained silence with snippets of stories as randomly pieced together as a well-worn patchwork quilt. But the Knott family's joy quickly gives way to shock: less than an hour later, Aunt Rachel is found dead in her bed, smothered with a pillow. Who would kill a woman on her deathbed? Was it an act of mercy, or murder? Or is there a secret that someone close to them is determined to bury forever.

MARTIN, NANCY blackbird LITTLE NIGHT MURDER (#10) (\$27.95) Nora Blackbird—pregnant at last!—is spending summer afternoons wallowing in the Bucks County pool of her best friend, Lexie Paine, who has just been released from prison. At night, Nora is covering Philadelphia's high-society events for the local newspaper. And this time she doesn't have to look far for a good story. There's murder in the air.

MOSBY, STEVE NIGHTMARE PLACE (\$32.99 hardcover, \$22.99 trade paperback) Don't close your eyes, he's waiting for you. Sometimes, there's a thin line between love and hate. Or at least that's one theory for DI Zoe Dolan, tracking the Creeper, a stalker who's been breaking into women's homes and attacking them. But the Creeper's violence is escalating and there's no pattern, no clue as to how he's getting in, and no clue as to who's next. Until Jane Webster gets a call to the helpline where she volunteers. It's meant to be a confidential service and Jane is torn, it could be a hoaxer, but the soft voice at the end of the line has the ring of truth about it. He says he loves these women, but it's a love that ends in blood. When Jane tells the police, it should be the lead that Zoe needs but it only pulls her further into a case that is already taking her dangerously close to the past she's never fully escaped. For Jane, Zoe and all the other young women of the city, suddenly nowhere is safe. Particularly their own bedroom at the dead of night.

PARSONS, TONY wolfe MURDER BAG (#1) (\$19.99) There's a serial killer on the loose. The social network sites all love him. Because he cuts the throats of rich and powerful men. And he's good at it. Twenty years ago seven rich, privileged students became friends at their exclusive private school, Potter's Field. Now they have started dying in the most violent way imaginable. Enter Detective Max Wolfe. "This is a terrific book! I didn't realize it had come into the store... I must have been having drinkies with Cottage Lady at the cottage, but you must read it!", says Marian.

PENNY, LOUISE LONG WAY HOME (#10) (\$29.99) A few signed copies on hand. Happily retired in the village of Three Pines, Armand Gamache, former Chief Inspector of Homicide with the Sûreté du Québec, has found a peace he'd only imagined possible. On warm summer mornings he sits on a bench holding a small book, *The Balm in Gilead*, in his large hands. "There is a balm in Gilead," his neighbour Clara reads from the dust jacket, "to make the wounded whole." While Gamache doesn't talk about his wounds and his balm, Clara tells him about hers. Peter, her artist husband, has failed to

come home. Failed to show up as promised on the first anniversary of their separation. She wants Gamache's help to find him. Having finally found sanctuary, Gamache feels a near revulsion at the thought of leaving Three Pines. "There's power enough in Heaven," he finishes the quote as he contemplates the quiet village, "to cure a sin-sick soul." And then he gets up. And joins her. See *Marian's Picks*.

PRESTON & CHILD crew LOST ISLAND (#3) (\$30) Gideon Crew, brilliant scientist, master thief, is living on borrowed time. When his mysterious employer, Eli Glinn, gives him an eyebrow-raising mission, he has no reason to refuse. Gideon's task: steal a page from the priceless Book of Kells, now on display in New York City and protected by unbreakable security. Accomplishing the impossible, Gideon steals the parchment, only to learn that hidden beneath the gorgeously illuminated image is a treasure map dating back to the time of the ancient Greeks. A very dangerous treasure.

QUINN, SPENCER chet berni PAW AND ORDER (#7) (\$29.99) Chet and Bernie pay a visit to Bernie's girlfriend, Suzie Sanchez, a crack reporter living in far-off Washington, DC. She's working on a big story she can't talk about, but when her source, a mysterious Brit with possible intelligence connections, runs into trouble of the worst kind, Bernie suddenly finds himself under arrest. Meanwhile Chet gets to know a powerful DC operative who may or may not have the goods on an ambitious politician. Soon Chet and Bernie are sucked into an international conspiracy, battling unfamiliar forces under the blinking red eyes of a strange bird that Chet notices from the get-go but seems to have slipped by everybody else. Most menacing of all is Barnum, a guinea pig with the fate of the nation in his tiny paws. As Harry Truman famously quipped, "If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog." Too bad he didn't get to meet Chet!

RIMINGTON, STELLA carlyle CLOSE CALL (#8) (\$32) In 2012, in a Middle Eastern souk, CIA agent Miles Brookhaven was attacked. At the time he was infiltrating rebel groups in the area. No one was certain if his cover had been blown or if the act was just an arbitrary attack on Westerners. Months later, the incident remains a mystery. Now, Liz Carlyle and her Counter Terrorism unit in MI5 have been charged with the task of watching the international under-the-counter arms trade. With the Arabic region in such a volatile state, the British Intelligence forces have become increasingly concerned that extremist Al-Qaeda jihadis are building their power base ready to launch another attack. As the pressure mounts, Liz and her team must intercept illegal weapons before they get into the wrong hands. When MI5 learns that the source of the arms deals is located in Western Europe, Liz finds herself on a manhunt that leads her to Paris, to Berlin and into her own long-forgotten past. A past buried so deep that she thought it would never resurface.

STANLEY, KELLI corbie CITY OF GHOSTS (#3) (\$31) June, 1940. For the United States, war is on the horizon. For Miranda Corbie, private investigator and erstwhile escort, there are debts to be paid and memories, long-suppressed and willfully forgotten, to be resurrected. Enter the U.S. State Department and the man who helped Miranda get her PI license. A man she owes. A man who asks her to track a chemistry professor here in San Francisco whom he suspects is a spy for the Nazis. Playing along may get Miranda a ticket to Blitz-bombed England and answers about her past... if she survives.

TANENBAUM, ROBERT karp FATAL CONCEIT (#26) (\$32) A CIA chief dies under suspicious circumstances before he is about to testify about a controversial government cover-up involving a terrorist attack on the US mission in Chechnya. Butch Karp is on the case!

TODD, CHARLES crawford UNWILLING ACCOMPLICE (#6) (\$31.99 hardcover, \$21.99 trade paperback) World War I nurse Bess Crawford, home on leave, is asked to accompany a wounded soldier to Buckingham Palace, where he's to be decorated by the king. The next morning, when Bess goes to collect him, his room is empty and he's nowhere to be found. Both the army and the nursing service

blame Bess for losing a patient, a hero at that, and she's to face an inquiry into her negligence. But how could a man confined to a wheelchair leave a hotel on his own and vanish into the night? Then comes word from the Shropshire police that Wilkins, the missing hero, has been sighted there, and an eyewitness claims the soldier has just killed a man. If Bess is to save her own reputation, she must find Wilkins and get to the bottom of what he did or didn't do.

WATERS, SARAH PAYING GUESTS (\$34) The year is 1922, and London is tense. Ex-servicemen are disillusioned, the out-of-work and the hungry are demanding change. In South London, in a large silent house now bereft of brothers, husband, and even servants, life is about to be transformed, as Mrs Wray and her daughter Frances are obliged to take in lodgers. With the arrival of Lilian and Leonard Barber, the routines of the house and the lives of its inhabitants will be shaken up in unexpected ways. And as passions mount and frustration gathers, no one can foresee just how far, and how devastatingly, the disturbances will reach.

WHITE, RANDY WAYNE smith HAUNTED (#3) (\$31) The house is historic, some say haunted. It is also slated to be razed and replaced by condos, unless Hannah Smith can do something about it. She's been hired by a wealthy Palm Beach widow to prove that the house's seller didn't disclose everything he knew about the place when he unloaded it, including its role in a bloody Civil War skirmish (in which two of Hannah's own distant relations had had a part), and the suicides—or were they murders?—of two previous owners. Hannah sees it as a win-win opportunity: She can stop the condo project while tracking her family history. She doesn't believe in ghosts, anyway. But some things are more dangerous than ghosts. Among them, as she will learn, perhaps fatally, is human obsession.

Paperbacks

ABBOTT, ALLYSON K mack MURDER WITH A TWIST (#2) (\$8.99)

ADAMS, ELLERY book MURDER IN THE MYSTERY SUITE (#1) (\$9.99) Tucked away in the rolling hills of rural western Virginia is the storybook resort of Storyton Hall, catering to book lovers who want to get away from it all. To increase her number of bookings, resort manager Jane Steward has decided to host a Murder and Mayhem week so that fans of the mystery genre can gather together for some role-playing and fantasy crime solving. But when the winner of the scavenger hunt, Felix Hampden, is found dead in the Mystery Suite, and the valuable book he won as his prize is missing, Jane realizes one of her guests is an actual murderer. Amid a resort full of fake detectives, Jane is bound and determined to find a real-life killer. The story has quite an unexpected twist to it. Surprising but interesting.....

ADLER-OLSEN, JUSSI dept q PURITY OF VENGEANCE (#4) aka guilt (\$18) In 1987, Nete Hermansen plans revenge on those who abused her, especially Curt Wad, a surgeon who was part of a movement to sterilize wayward girls in the 1950s. More than twenty years later, Detective Carl Mørck already has plenty on his mind when he is presented with the case of a brothel owner, a woman named Rita, who went missing in the eighties: New evidence has emerged in the case that sent Carl to Department Q. But when Carl's assistants, Assad and Rose, learn that numerous other people disappeared around the same weekend as Rita, Carl takes notice. Sifting through the evidence, they inch closer to Curt Wad, who is still committed to his twisted beliefs, and whose treatment of Nete only hints at his capacity for evil. This is a terrific series, the other titles are The Keeper of Lost Causes, Absent One (\$17 each), Conspiracy of Faith (\$18). Favourites of Marian's.

AIRTH, RENNIE RECKONING (#4) (\$22.95 trade paperback,

\$32.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

ALAU, JEAN-PIERRE TREACHERY IN BORDEAUX (#1) (\$16) The start of a 22-book wine plus crime mystery series, this journey to Bordeaux takes readers behind the scenes of a grand cru wine estate that has fallen victim to either negligence or sabotage. World-renowned winemaker turned gentleman detective Benjamin Cooker sets out to find out what happened and why. Who would want to target this esteemed vintner? He and his assistant investigate around the region to find out. A hit on French TV, these slim volumes are translated from the French.

ALAU, JEAN-PIERRE GRAND CRU HEIST (#2) (\$16) In another Epicurean journey in France, renowned wine critic Benjamin Cooker's world gets turned upside down one night in Paris. He retreats to the region around Tours to recover. There a flamboyant British dandy, a spectacular blue-eyed blond, a zealous concierge and touchy local police disturb his well-deserved rest. From the Loire Valley to Bordeaux, in between a glass of Vouvray and a bottle of Saint-Émilion, the Winemaker Detective and his assistant Virgile turn PI to solve two murders and very a particular heist. Who stole those bottles of grand cru classé?

ALAU, JEAN-PIERRE NIGHTMARE IN BURGUNDY (#3) (\$16) The Winemaker Detective leaves his native Bordeaux to go to Burgundy for a dream wine tasting trip to France's other key wine-making region. Between Beaune, Dijon and Nuits-Saint-Georges, it turns into a troubling nightmare when he stumbles upon a mystery revolving around messages from another era. What do they mean? What dark secrets from the deep past are haunting the Clos de Vougeot? Does blood need to be shed to sharpen people's memory?

ALBERT, SUSAN W darling DARLING DAHLIAS AND THE TEXAS STAR (#4) (\$9.99) The Texas Star herself, Miss Lily Dare, the "fastest woman in the world", is bringing her Dare Devils Flying Circus to Darling. Unfortunately, she's also bringing a whole lot of trouble. Dahlia's president Liz Lacy learns from newspaperman Charlie Dickens that Miss Dare has been threatened and her plane sabotaged. And, the new cook at Myra May's Darling Diner can fry a chicken and whip up a sweet potato meringue pie like nobody's business. But why is she keeping her past such a mystery? Includes Southern-style depression era recipes.

ALEXANDER, TASHA ashton BEHIND THE SHATTERED GLASS (#8) (\$16.99) Anglemore Park is the serene ancestral home of Lady Emily Hargreave's husband Colin. But the stately calm of country life is destroyed when their neighbour, the Marquess of Montagu, bursts through the French doors from the garden and falls down dead in front of the shocked gathering. But who has a motive for murdering the young aristocrat? The lovely cousin who was threatened by his engagement, the Oxford friend he falsely accused of cheating, the scheming vicar's daughter he shamelessly seduced or the relative no one knew existed who appears to claim the Montagu title? Who is the mysterious woman seen walking with him moments before he was brutally attacked? The trail takes readers into the gilded world of a British manor house and below stairs to the servants who know all the secrets. One family's hidden past and a forbidden passion are the clues to a puzzle only Lady Emily can solve.

BARCLAY, LINWOOD NO SAFE HOUSE (\$22.95) #1 international bestselling Canadian author **Linwood Barclay** delivers a sequel to the terrific, and nail biting story No Time for Goodbye (\$9.99). Seven years ago, Terry Archer and his family experienced a horrific ordeal that nearly cost them their lives. Today, the echoes of that night are still haunting them. Terry's wife, Cynthia, is living separate from her husband and daughter after her own personal demons threatened to permanently ruin her relationship with them. Their daughter, Grace, is rebelling against her parents' needless over-protection. Terry is just trying to keep his family together. And the entire town is reeling from the senseless murder of a local retired cou-

ple. But when Grace follows her delinquent boyfriend into a strange house, the Archers must do more than stay together. They must stay alive. Because now they have all been unwillingly drawn into the shadowy depths of their idyllic hometown. There, they will be reconnected with the man who saved their lives seven years ago, but who remains a ruthless, unrepentant criminal. The Archers will learn that there are some things people value much more than money, and some people who will do anything to get it

BENN, JAMES R billy boyle BLIND GODDESS (#8) (\$15.95)

The 617th Tank Destroyers, the all-African American battalion poised to make history by being the US Army's first combatant African American company, faces racism at every turn. One member of the 617th, a gunner named Angry Smith, has been arrested for a crime he almost certainly didn't commit, and faces the gallows if the real killer isn't found. US top brass won't care about justice in this instance, so Billy is asked to look into the case. But Billy is busy with another delicate case.

BERENSON, LAURIEN DOG EAT DOG (#3), HOT DOG (#9), UNDERDOG (#2) and ONCE BITTEN (#8) (\$8.99 each) If you need any of these titles please let us know.

BERTSCH, DAVID R trent DEATH CANYON (#1) (\$18.99)

It's early summer in Jackson, Wyoming, where former prosecutor Jake Trent has left the law behind to pursue his dream: becoming a fishing guide and opening a small bed-and-breakfast in the West. Now three seemingly unrelated deaths have occurred in one day. A skier perishes in a freak late-season avalanche. A French couple is discovered mutilated on a remote trail, presumably by a bear. And on the Snake River, Jake stumbles across the body of an expensively attired fisherman. Meanwhile, a series of small earthquakes, not to mention a bitter dispute between land developers and environmentalists, has left the townspeople uneasy. Before long, the plausible explanations for each death dissolve. Could there be a sinister connection among them? When fresh evidence points to Jake as a suspect, he goes on the defensive. Is someone out to frame him? Jake teams up with beautiful park ranger Noelle Klimpton to get to the bottom of this series of disturbing events. The trail leads right to the region's crown-jewel attraction: Yellowstone. A debut novel.

BLOCK, LAWRENCE keller HIT ME (#5) (\$18) A man named Nicholas Edwards lives in New Orleans renovating houses, doing honest work and making decent money at it. Between his family and his stamp collection, all his spare time is happily accounted for. Sometimes it's hard to remember that he used to kill people for a living. But when the nation's economy tanks, taking the construction business with it, all it takes is one phone call to drag him back into the game. It may say Nicholas Edwards on his driver's license and credit cards, but he's back to being the man he always was: Keller.

BOOTH, STEPHEN CORPSE BRIDGE (#14) (\$24.99) The old Corpse Bridge is the route taken for centuries by mourners from villages on the western fringes of Derbyshire to a burial ground across the River Dove, now absorbed into the landscaped parkland of a stately home. When Earl Manby, the landowner, announces plans to deconsecrate the burial ground to turn it into a car park for his holiday cottages, bodies begin to appear once again on the road to the Corpse Bridge. Is there a connection with the Earl's plans? Or worse, is there a terrifying serial killer at work? Back in his job after the traumatic events of previous months, Detective Sergeant Ben Cooper knows that he must unravel the mystery of the Corpse Bridge if he's going to be able to move on with his life. As the pressure builds, Ben doesn't know who he can trust and, when the case reaches breaking point, he has to make a call that could put everything, and everyone, at risk.

BOWEN, GAIL GIFTED (#14) (\$17.95) Jo and Zack are both proud and a little concerned when their youngest daughter Taylor, whose birth mother was a brilliant but notorious artist, has two paintings chosen for a major fund-raising auction. One they've seen; Tay-

lor has kept the other, a portrait of a young male artist's model, in her studio. Their concern grows when it becomes clear that the young man is the lover of the older socialite who organized the fund-raiser. Soon, an ugly web of infidelity, addiction, and manipulation seems to be weaving itself around the Kilbourn-Shreve family. Jo and Zack are doing their best to keep everyone safe, but when one of the principal players in the drama is found murdered, events begin to spiral, Taylor seems to be drifting further away, and their very darkest fears seem about to be realized.

BOWEN, RHYS royals HEIRS AND GRACES (#7) (\$9.99) As thirty-fifth in line for the throne, Lady Georgiana Rannoch may not be the most sophisticated young woman, but she knows her table manners. It's forks on the left, knives on the right—not in His Majesty's back... She's been entrusted with grooming Jack Altringham, the Duke's newly discovered heir fresh from the Outback of Australia, for high society. Not everyone is pleased about the discovery of the new heir, so not many tears are shed when Jack's hunting knife is found in the Duke's back. Jack may be a rascal, but is he a murderer? Another case for Georgina.

BOX, C J pickett OPEN SEASON (#1) (\$16) A terrific novel and a terrific series. See *JD's Picks*.

BRETT, SIMON blotto/twink BLOTTO TWINKS (#5) RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX (\$18) Yet another financial crisis at Tawcester Towers! So this time the Dowager Duchess decides to sell off the less important family possessions, which have, for a long time, been consigned to the attics of the ancestral home. Not much of any worth is found up there, but Blotto and Twinks are drawn to a sarcophagus decorated with hieroglyphs. Twinks starts to translate: 'Anyone who desecrates this shrine will be visited by the Pharaoh's curse...' - just as Blotto pries the lid off. The curse of Pharaoh Sinus Nefertop is upon Blotto so it's up to Twinks to banish it!

BRETT, SIMON paris DECENT INTERVAL (#18) (\$23) It's been over fifteen years since the previous Charles Paris novel, an indecent interval if you ask me, but better late than never. It's been a few months since Charlie was last not resting, but his agent has been around, and offered him some work. He's going to play Ghost of Hamlet's Father and First Gravedigger in a new production of Hamlet. Great fun. A *JD's Picks* in a previous newsletter.

BROWN, RITA MAE sneakypie LITTER OF THE LAW (#22) (\$9.99) Halloween arrives early this year to rural central Virginia, when a twisted killer will stop at nothing to protect a multimillion-dollar scheme. Sneakypie and the gang to the rescue.

BURKE, JAMES LEE robicheau LIGHT OF THE WORLD (#20) (\$11.99) Louisiana Sheriff's Detective Dave Robicheaux and his longtime friend and partner Clete Purcel are vacationing in Montana's spectacular Big Sky country when a series of suspicious events leads them to believe their lives, and the lives of their families, are in danger. First, Alafair Robicheaux is nearly killed by an arrow while hiking alone on a trail. Then Alafair thinks she sees a familiar face following her around town, but how could convicted sadist and serial killer Asa Surette be loose on the streets of Montana?

BURTON, JESSIE MINIATURIST (\$22.99) On an autumn day in 1686, eighteen-year-old Nella knocks at the door of a grand house in the wealthiest quarter of Amsterdam. She has come from the country to begin a new life as the wife of the illustrious merchant trader Johannes Brandt, but instead she is met by his sharp-tongued sister, Marin. Only later does Johannes appear and present her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home. It is to be furnished by an elusive miniaturist, whose tiny creations mirror their real-life counterparts in unexpected ways. This is a story of love and obsession, betrayal and retribution, appearance and truth.

BURTON, MARY rangers YOU'RE NOT SAFE (#3) (\$8.99) The broken body hanging from a tree in Texas Hill Country; the frozen figure huddled in a meat locker; Only at second glance does the

truth become apparent. What seems like suicide is far more sinister, and the terror is only beginning. One devastating moment changed Greer Templeton's life and ended two others. Now, with a body found on her property and Texas Ranger Tec Bragg on her doorstep, Greer's nightmare has returned. With each new victim, her link to Tec's case grows, and soon it will be too late to run. Greer hoped the past was behind her, but an obsessed killer has never forgotten the bond that unites them. One by one, he will track down his victims, finish what was started and make Greer's dying wish come true.

CANTRELL, JANET fat cat FAT CAT AT LARGE (#1) (\$9.99)

The jig is up for Chase's adorable plus-size cat, Quincy. His new vet says "diet", and that means no more cherry cheesecake bars. From now on he gets low-calorie kibble only. But one taste of the stuff is all it takes to drive him in search of better things. Quincy's escape is the last thing Chase needs after the nasty run-in she has with underhanded business rival Gabe Naughtly. Chase tracks Quincy down in a neighbour's kitchen, where he's devouring a meatloaf, unaware of the much more serious crime he's stumbled upon. Gabe's corpse is lying on the kitchen floor, and when Chase is discovered at the murder scene, she becomes suspect number one. Now, with a little help from her friends, both human and feline, she'll have to catch the real killer or wind up behind bars that aren't so sweet. Includes recipes for people and cats!

CAPRI, DIANE DON'T KNOW JACK (THE HUNT FOR REACHER) (\$22.50) It's been a while since we first met **Lee**

Child's Jack Reacher in Killing Floor (\$10.99). Fifteen years and sixteen novels later, Reacher still lives off the grid, until trouble finds him, and then he does whatever it takes, much to the delight of readers and the dismay of villains. Now someone big is looking for him. Who? And why? Hunting Jack Reacher is a dangerous business, as FBI Special Agents Kim Otto and Carlos Gaspar are about to find out. Otto and Gaspar are by-the-book hunters who know when it's necessary to break the rules, but they Don't Know Jack. Reacher is a stone cold killer. Is he their friend or their enemy? Only the secrets hidden in Margrave, Georgia will tell them. Is Reacher a wanted man? This is an expensive trade paperback as we have to order it as a "Print on Demand". However...if you love the Reacher novel's we think you will love this. It reads like a **Lee Child** story but will they locate Jack?

CASEY, ELIZABETH tori TAKEN IN (#9) (\$9.99) Winning an appearance on a top-rated, New York based morning show means the trip of a lifetime for librarian Tori Sinclair and the Sweet Briar Ladies Society Sewing Circle. Anxious to experience Manhattan with her friends, Tori is less than excited when fellow member Dixie Dunn opts to use the vacation as an opportunity to rendezvous with a man she met online. Still, Tori never imagined her friend would be taken in by a con man specializing in scamming vulnerable older women or that Dixie would be arrested for his murder. Now, as the sewing circle goes up against Gotham's elite to prove Dixie's innocence, they will have to unravel tangled secrets and alibis, patch together a mess of clues, and put a clever killer in the city's hottest spotlight

CHASE, ERIKA ashton BOOK FAIR AND FOUL (#4) (\$9.99) The members of the Ashton Corners Mystery Readers and Cheese Straws Society are all chipping in as Molly Mathews, now owner of the bookstore the Book Nook, prepares the first annual Mystery Book Fair. While gossip circulates about the guest authors, club member Lizzie Turner is unpleasantly surprised to see a certain book publicist make an appearance. It seems Lizzie has a history with Ashley Dixon but when he is murdered Lizzie becomes the prime suspect. For anyone who loves bookclubs and books...The others in this series are Killer Read, Read and Buried and Cover Story (\$8.99 each).

CLARE, ALYS aelf fen LAND OF THE SILVER DRAGON (#5) (\$21) Apprentice healer Lassair isn't too alarmed when a traveling peddler relates a grisly tale of a red-bearded giant breaking into a

woman's home and caving in her skull like an eggshell; peddlers, she has observed, tend towards the dramatic. But her attitude changes when she learns that the dead woman is a distant relation. The incident makes Lassair's family uneasy, for the intruder seemed to be searching for something. What could it be? Lassair has no idea. But as the stranger grows increasingly desperate, his search brings violence to her very home.

CLARKE, LUCY SINGLE BREATH (\$18.99) Eva has only been married for eight months when her husband, Jackson, is swept to his death while fishing. Weighed down by confusion and sorrow, Eva decides to take leave of her midwifery practice in London and visit Jackson's estranged family in Tasmania with the hope of grieving together. Instead, she discovers that the man she loved so deeply is not the man she thought she knew. Jackson's father and brother reveal a dark past, exposing the lies her marriage was built upon. As Eva struggles to come to terms with the depth of Jackson's deception, she must also confront her growing attraction to Jackson's brother, Saul, who offers her intimacy, passion, and answers to her most troubling questions.

COCO, NANCY TO FUDGE OR NOT TO FUDGE (#2) (\$8.99)

With summer in bloom and tourists afoot, Allie is out walking her pup, Mal, when the curious canine digs up a bone from under a flowering lilac bush. The bone leads to a toe that's missing a body. For the successful confectionaire it's only the first in a series of sour events in the middle of the island's Lilac Fest. When her stint on a cooking reality show stirs up a trail of foul play, Allie will have to outwit a cunning killer if she wants to continue living la dolce vida.

COEL, MARGARET wind river KILLING CUSTER (#17)

(\$9.99) The whole town of Lander has turned out for main spectacle: this year, Colonel Edward Garrett, a spot-on impersonator of General George Armstrong Custer, and a troop of men acting as the ill-fated Seventh Cavalry. The problem is they are being followed by a group of Arapaho warriors from the Wind River Reservation, who proceed to encircle Garrett and his men in a "dare ride" just to remind them exactly who won the Battle of the Little Bighorn. But when the ride is over, history seems to have repeated itself: Garrett is dead in the street with a bullet hole in his chest and the prime suspect is Colin Morningside, a descendant of Crazy Horse!

COHEN, STUART ARCHER 17 STONE ANGELS (\$19.50) In Buenos Aires, a corrupt cop is assigned to investigate a murder he committed. Commissioner Miguel Fortunato is nearing retirement after a long, dishonest career. Six months ago he was ordered to kidnap foreigner Robert Waterbury for reasons left unclear. The kidnapping turned to murder. Now the Americans are sending their own investigator, and Fortunato is assigned to support her. Fortunato is quickly drawn into the dazzling world of his victim, a failed novelist who came to Buenos Aires desperate to make a big score. As he uncovers the vast outlines of a global crime, Fortunato begins to unravel not only the murder, but the deeper mystery of his own career and the lies that have sustained it.

CONNOLLY, JOHN johnson CREEPS (#3) (\$18) Samuel Johnson's life seems to have finally settled down; he's still got the company of his faithful dachshund Boswell and his bumbling demon friend Nurd; he has foiled the dreaded forces of darkness not once but twice; and he's now dating the lovely Lucy Highmore. But things in the little English town of Biddlecombe rarely run smoothly for long. Shadows are gathering in the skies; a black heart of pure evil is bubbling with revenge; and it rather looks as if the Multiverse is about to come to an end, starting with Biddlecombe. When a new toy shop's opening goes terrifyingly awry, Samuel must gather a ragtag band of dwarfs, policemen, and very polite monsters to face down the greatest threat the Multiverse has ever known, not to mention assorted vampires, a girl with an unnatural fondness for spiders, and highly flammable unfriendly elves. The first two are The Gates (\$18.99) and The

Infernal aka Hell's Bells (\$17).

COOK, THOMAS H SANDRINES CASE (\$18.50) A college professor falls in love with his wife all over again...while he's on trial for her murder. Samuel Madison always wondered what Sandrine saw in him. He was a meek, stuffy doctorate student, and she a brilliant, beautiful, bohemian with limitless talents and imagination. But she did see something, enough to marry him. And then one night Sandrine is found dead in their bed and Samuel is accused of her murder. As the truth about their often tumultuous relationship comes to light, Samuel must face a town and media convinced of his guilt, a daughter whose faith in her father has been shaken to its core, and astonishing revelations about his wife that make him fall in love with her for a second time.

CORNWELL, BERNARD saxon t PAGAN LORD (#7) (\$10.99) The seventh novel in The Warrior Chronicles, on the making of England and the fate of its great hero, Uhtred of Bebbanburg. Alfred the Great is dead and Edward his son reigns as king. Wessex survives but peace cannot hold. The Danes in the north, led by Viking Cnut Longsword, stand ready to invade and will never rest until the emerald crown is theirs.

COSTA, SHELLEY italian BASIL INSTINCT (#2) (\$9.99) When Chef Eve Angelotta's grandmother, Maria Pia, is invited to join Belfiere, a secret all-female Italian culinary society, Eve is concerned. Rumour has it that membership is lifelong, whether you like it or not. Eve and her cousin Landon try to research Belfiere, but all they come up with is a two-year-old blog entry warning against the two-hundred-year-old society that centres around meals inspired by famous female poisoners. Soon after, Eve's new sous chef turns up dead just inside the front door of Miracolo, Eve's restaurant. When they discover the sous chef had connections to Belfiere, Eve and her Italian cousins start a mission to find out what happened, before Maria Pia is made an offer she can't refuse. The first in the series is You Cannoli Die Once (#9.99).

COULTER, CATHERINE brit FINAL CUT (#1) (\$11.99), BACKFIRE (#16) (\$10.99), BOMBSHELL (#17) (\$11.99), EDGE (#4) (\$9.99), HEMLOCK BAY (#6) (\$9.99), KNOCKOUT (#13) (\$12.50), RIPTIDE (#5) (\$8.99), SPLIT SECOND (#15) (\$10.99), TAILSPIN (#12) (\$8.99) and WHIPLASH (#14) (\$11.50) A special order by a customer completing her series of these FBI suspense novels. We can get them for you as well. Just let us know.

COYLE, CLEO clare cosi BILLIONAIRE BLEND (#13) (\$9.99) When a car bomb nearly kills tech whiz Eric Thorner, coffeehouse manager Clare Cosi comes to his aid and receives a priceless thank you. Not only does the billionaire buy her a barista's dream espresso machine, he hires her for an extraordinary project: creating the world's most expensive coffee blend. The police quickly arrest Eric's alleged attacker, yet death continues to surround the unlucky mogul, leading Clare to question whether a fatal fall and another lethal mishap are premeditated murders or merely freak accidents. Clare's boyfriend, NYPD detective Mike Quinn, has a theory of his own but one Clare refuses to believe. Meanwhile, Eric jets Clare around the world on a head-spinning search for the very best coffee, and Clare gets to know his world, a mesmerizing circle of money with rivalries that could easily have turned deadly. But is this charming young CEO truly marked for termination? Or is he the one making a killing?

CRAIG, JAMES carlyle MAN OF SORROWS (#6) (\$16) Hunting down a paedophile priest, Inspector Carlyle finds himself up against his old adversary Christian Holyrod. The Mayor of London is responsible for hosting an upcoming visit by the Pope and does not want any more scandals involving the Catholic Church. Carlyle, however, is not prepared to let crimes slide, putting him on a collision course with both the mayor and the church. Without his sympathetic boss, Carole Simpson, to protect him, could this be the end of the line for Carlyle? Never one to fight only one battle at a time, he also has

to deal with an armed robbery at an upscale jewellers in Mayfair and a serious health scare for Helen, his wife.

CRANE, CHERYL harper DEAD AND THE BEAUTIFUL (#3) (\$8.99) Top realtor to the stars, Nikki Harper is often privy to the kind of celebrity secrets the tabloids would kill to hear. It's a position that helps her shed light on the darker, deadlier side of Tinsel Town. Her mother, Victoria Bordeaux, is the star of the TV series Casa Capri, the same one rocked by the murder of Ryan Melton, the arm-candy husband of the show's co-star, Diara Elliott. The prime suspect is the last person to see Ryan alive: his dog walker Alison Sahira, coincidentally the sister of Nikki's own boyfriend. Nikki is sure Alison is innocent, but Alison is also harbouring a dirty little secret that could derail the careers of a lot of A-listers. Sorting through a tangled web of lies and innuendo, Nikki is racing to find the truth before she becomes the next target on Hollywood's deadliest new hit list. The first two in the series are The Bad Always Die Twice and Imitation of Death (\$8.99 each).

DE GIOVANNI, MAURIZIO ric BY MY HAND (#5) (\$19) As Naples prepares for its holiday celebrations, behind the facade of order and happiness imposed by the fascist regime, lurks terrible poverty and blinding desperation. In a luxurious apartment on the Mergellina beach the bodies of a fascist militia officer and his wife have been found. The woman has had her throat cut while the man has been stabbed over sixty times. Seemingly, the hands of two separate killers have been at work. A statuette of San Giuseppe, patron saint of workers, lies in pieces on the floor. At the scene of the crime, Ricciardi, who has the dubious gift of being able to see and hear the last seconds in the lives of those who have suffered a violent death, listens to the enigmatic last words of the couple. Accompanied by his faithful partner Brigadier Raffaele Maione, and once more troubled by two women who compete for his attentions, the Commissario will have to trace a wide and frenetic arc through the streets of Naples in order to uncover the truth.

DEAVER, JEFFERY OCTOBER LIST (\$17) Two days ago, Gabriela's life was normal. Then, out of the blue, she gets word that her six-year-old daughter has been abducted. She's given an ultimatum: pay half a million dollars and find a mysterious document known as the "October List" within 30 hours, or she'll never see her child again.

DUNNETT, KAITLYN maccrimm VAMPIRES BONES AND TREACLE SCONES (#7) (\$8.99) Liss MacCrimmon Ruskin, proprietor of the Moosetookalook Scottish Emporium in small-town Moosetookalook, Maine, is in charge of planning the town's All Hallows Festival. She and her husband determine that the Chadwick mansion, rumoured to contain gangster Blackie O'Hare's hidden fortune, will be the perfect setting for the haunted house, so she and her committee begin the transformation. As they work on the house, items disappear and reappear, and then Liss finds her cousin Ned's bloody body on a couch. There is also evidence that someone is digging for treasure in the basement. When the police arrest Hilary, Ned's former girlfriend, Liss investigates.

ENGEL, HOWARD mike ward CITY OF FALLEN ANGELS (#1) (\$20) It's 1940. Canadian journalist Mike Ward, fresh off assignments in Paris, London, Moscow, and Berlin, thinks he's seen it all: the rise of charismatic dictators, the fall of governments, political intrigues too bizarre to believe. Yet despite his tenure in fascist Europe, nothing could have prepared him for his latest posting: Hollywood, where the glitz and glamour of the silver screen mingles with the grit and grime of the criminal underworld. Ward's latest assignment, to cover the "suicide" of a studio executive, is bound to drag him deeper into the shadows of America's bright lights. The beginning of a new series.

FAYE, LYND SAY gotham SEVEN FOR A SECRET (#2) (\$18) Six months after the formation of the NYPD, its most reluctant and

talented officer, Timothy Wilde, thinks himself well versed in his city's dark practices until he learns of the gruesome underworld of lies and corruption ruled by the "blackbirders," who snatch free Northerners of colour from their homes, masquerade them as slaves, and sell them South to toil as plantation property. The abolitionist Timothy is horrified by these traders in human flesh. But in 1846, slave catching isn't just legal, it's law enforcement. When the beautiful and terrified Lucy Adams staggers into Timothy's office to report a robbery and is asked what was stolen, her reply is, "My family." Their search for her mixed-race sister and son will plunge Timothy and his feral brother, Valentine, into a world where police are complicit and politics savage, and corpses appear in the most shocking of places. Sequel to Gods of Gotham (\$17).

FERRIS, GORDON brodie GALLOWGLASS (#4) (\$16) He's dead. It says so in his own newspaper: "Douglas Brodie - Born January 25, 1912, Died July 20, 1947." Is this really the end of the hard-boiled ex-cop? A brief editorial describes the tragic death of their chief crime reporter Douglas Brodie and staunchly defends him against the unproven charge of murder. It's a brave stance to take, given the weight of evidence. The death is confirmed in the tear-streaked faces of the women by the freshly dug grave. It is spelled out in chiseled letters on the headstone, glistening oil-black in the drizzle. Just four weeks before, a senior banker was kidnapped. His distraught wife pleaded with Brodie to deliver the ransom money and free her husband. The drop went disastrously wrong. Brodie was attacked in the kidnappers' den. He woke with a gun in his hand next to a very dead banker with a bullet in his head. The police, led by Brodie's old foe Sangster, burst in and arrest Brodie. The case is watertight: the bullet comes from Brodie's revolver, the banker's wife denies knowing Brodie, and Brodie's pockets are stuffed with ransom notes. Samantha Campbell deploys all her advocacy skills to no avail. It looks like her lover is for the long drop. But in an apparent act of desperation, or guilt, Brodie cheats justice by committing suicide in his prison cell. Is this the sordid end for a distinguished ex-copper, decorated soldier, and man of parts?

FINCH, CHARLES lenox OLD BETRAYAL (#7) (\$18.50) On a spring morning in London, 1875, Charles Lenox agrees to take time away from his busy schedule as a Member of Parliament to meet an old protégé's client at Charring Cross. But when their cryptic encounter seems to lead, days later, to the murder of an innocuous country squire, this fast favour draws Lenox inexorably back into his old profession. Soon he realizes that, far from concluding the murderer's business, this body is only the first step in a cruel plan, many years in the plotting. Where will he strike next? The answer, Lenox learns with slowly dawning horror, may be at the very heart of England's monarchy.

FLETCHER & BAIN MURDER SHE WROTE: CLOSE UP ON MURDER (\$9.99) Cabot Cove is being invaded by Hollywood. One of Jessica's older novels is being adapted into a big-budget movie. The producer has decided to shoot on location, since the book was loosely based on a murder that shocked Cabot Cove several years earlier. Unfortunately, everyone on the set seems to have a hidden agenda. A novice director wants his shot at the big time. The lead actress has many unreasonable demands. Her astrologer sees trouble in the stars. And a stranger on the movie lot is stalking Jessica. When a body is found on the set, a strip of celluloid film wrapped around its neck, there's a cast and crew of possible suspects.

FLYNN, GILLIAN GONE GIRL (\$11.99) Another unputdownable masterpiece from the author of the brilliant Sharp Objects (\$17). This one is about a marriage gone terribly, terribly wrong. On a warm summer morning in North Carthage, Missouri, it is Nick and Amy Dunne's fifth wedding anniversary. Presents are being wrapped and reservations are being made when Nick's clever and beautiful wife disappears from their rented McMansion on the Mississippi.

FOLLETT, KEN century tril WINTER OF THE WORLD (#2) (\$11.99) This novel picks up right where The Fall of Giants (\$10.99) left off, as its five interrelated families, American, German, Russian, English, Welsh, enter a time of enormous social, political, and economic turmoil, beginning with the rise of the Third Reich, through the Spanish Civil War and the great dramas of World War II, up to the explosions of the American and Soviet atomic bombs. Carla von Ulrich, born of German and English parents, finds her life engulfed by the Nazi tide until she commits a deed of great courage and heart-break. American brothers Woody and Chuck Dewar, each with a secret, take separate paths to momentous events, one in Washington, the other in the bloody jungles of the Pacific. English student Lloyd Williams discovers in the crucible of the Spanish Civil War that he must fight Communism just as hard as Fascism. Daisy Peshkov, a driven American social climber, cares only for popularity and the fast set, until the war transforms her life, not just once but twice, while her cousin Volodya carves out a position in Soviet intelligence that will affect not only this war but the war to come.

FORSYTH, FREDERICK KILL LIST (\$11.99) In Virginia, there is an agency bearing the bland name of Technical Operations Support Activity, or TOSA. Its mission is to track, find, and kill those so dangerous to the United States that they are on a short document known as the Kill List. TOSA actually exists. So does the Kill List. One of the names on the list is that of a terrorist of frightening effectiveness called the Preacher, who radicalizes young Muslims abroad to carry out assassinations. Unfortunately for him, one of the kills is a retired Marine general, whose son is TOSA's top hunter of men. So it has become personal now. The hunt is on.

FOSSUM, KARIN I CAN SEE IN THE DARK (\$16.99) A brilliant stand-alone crime novel from Norway's original queen of crime. Riktor doesn't like the way the policeman comes straight into the house without knocking. He doesn't like the arrogant way the policeman observes his home. The policeman doesn't tell him why he's there, and Riktor doesn't ask. Because he knows he's guilty. But it turns out that the policeman isn't looking for a missing person. He is accusing Riktor of something totally unexpected. Riktor doesn't have a clear conscience, but this is a crime he certainly didn't commit.

FRANCIS, FELIX REFUSAL (\$16) Richard Stewart, the racing authority chairman, wants Sid Halley to investigate suspicious race results. But Halley gave up investigating eight years ago, swearing he'd never go back. But then Stewart is found dead and Halley receives a threatening call from a man insisting he investigate the alleged race-fixing. Halley still refuses, but when his young daughter goes missing he realizes he may pay the ultimate price. With his family in mortal danger, Halley acts. Maybe he underestimated the evilness of his foe, but perhaps his foe has underestimated Sid Halley's determination to get his daughter back, or die trying. Of course, the first four Halley novels were written by **Dick Francis**.

FRITZE, PETER CASE FOR KILLING (\$12.95) Two plans for murder are colliding. In The Case for Killing, Peter Bradley is Canada's top anti-trust lawyer. He has it all: a trophy wife, Rosedale mansion, idyllic summer home and national acclaim. He thinks of himself as a good man but his enemies, everywhere and close, beg to differ. One even thinks he needs to die. Bradley is consumed by a different threat. His firm is hiring his greatest rival without his approval. He feels an attack on his pre-eminence and quietly seethes with revenge. Bradley charges fat fees advising clients how to deal with their competition. But when he imagines the competition from his rival, his advice to himself is simple, eliminate it. Who survives?

GARNIER, PASCAL MOON IN A DEAD EYE (\$15.95) Given the choice, Martial would not have moved to Les Convivales. But Odette loved the idea of a new retirement village in the south of France. So that was that. At first it feels like a terrible mistake: they're the only residents and it's raining nonstop. Then three neighbours ar-

rive, the sun comes out, and life becomes far more interesting and agreeable. Until, that is, some gypsies set up camp just outside their gated community. Translated from the French.

GEORGE, ELIZABETH lynley JUST ONE EVIL ACT (#18) (\$19) Sergeant Barbara Havers is at a loss: the daughter of her friend Taymullah Azhar has been taken by the mother, and Barbara can't really help. Azhar had never married Angelina, and his name isn't on the daughter's birth certificate. He has no legal claim. Azhar and Barbara hire a private detective, but the trail goes cold. Azhar is just beginning to accept his soul-crushing loss when the mother reappears with shocking news: the girl has been kidnapped from an Italian marketplace. The Italian police are investigating, and the Yard won't get involved, until Barbara takes matters into her own hands at the risk of her own career.

GODDARD, ROBERT WAYS OF THE WORLD (\$16.99) 1919. The eyes of the world are on the city of Paris where diplomats, politicians, spies and opportunists have gathered to discuss the fate of Germany in the aftermath of the cataclysm that was the First World War. In such circumstances, the last thing the British diplomatic community need is the untimely death of one of their delegation. So when Sir Henry Maxted falls from the roof of his mistress' apartment block in mysterious circumstances, their first instinct is to sanitize any unexplained aspects to his death. But his son, ex-Royal Flying Corps ace, James 'Max' Maxted, has other ideas. He resolves to get to the bottom of Sir Henry's death even if it does mean disturbing the impression of harmonious calm which the negotiating teams have worked so hard to maintain. In a city where nations are jostling for position at the crossroads of history and stakes are very high, it is difficult to tell who is a friend and who is a foe. And Max will soon discover how much he needs friends.

GRAFTON, SUE W IS FOR WASTED (\$9.99) Two seemingly unrelated deaths, one a murder, the other apparently of natural causes. But as Kinsey digs deeper into the mystery of the John Doe, some very strange linkages begin to emerge. And before long at least one aspect is solved as Kinsey literally finds the key to his identity. "And just like that," she says, "the lid to Pandora's box flew open. It would take me another day before I understood how many imps had been freed, but for the moment, I was inordinately pleased with myself".

GRANGER, ANN ross TESTIMONY OF THE HANGED MAN (#5) (\$22.99 trade paperback, \$32.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

GREENWOOD, KERRY fisher FLYING TOO HIGH (#2) (\$20) In this, the second Phryne Fisher mystery, the 1920s' most talented and glamorous detective flies even higher, handling a murder, a kidnapping and the usual array of beautiful young men with style and consummate ease- and all before it's time to adjourn to the Queenscliff Hotel for breakfast. Whether she's flying planes, clearing a friend of homicide charges or saving a child from kidnapping, she handles everything with the same dash and elan with which she drives her red Hispano-Suiza. Originally published in 1990.

GREENWOOD, KERRY fisher MURDER ON THE BAL-LARAT TRAIN (#3) (\$20) Phryne is giving her red Hispano-Suiza a break: this week she is traveling by train to Ballarat. But what should have been the trip of her dreams, soon turns into the stuff of nightmares. Phryne has to use her Beretta .32 to save her life and that of her traveling companion Dot. And someone has poisoned the other passengers with chloroform. Originally published in 1991.

GRISHAM, JOHN brigance SYCAMORE ROW (#2) (\$11.99) Nearly twenty-five years after the publication of A Time to Kill (#1) (\$9.99), we get the second Jake Brigance courtroom drama. Once again Jake finds himself embroiled in a fiercely controversial trial-a trial that will expose old racial tensions and force Ford County to confront its tortured history. Seth Hubbard is a wealthy man dying of lung cancer. He trusts no one. Before he hangs himself from a sycamore

tree, Hubbard leaves a new, handwritten, will. This second will raises far more questions than it answers. Why would Hubbard leave nearly all of his fortune to his black maid? Had chemotherapy and painkillers affected his ability to think clearly? And what does it all have to do with a piece of land once known as Sycamore Row?

HADDAM, JANE demarkian HEARTS OF SAND (#28) (\$9.99) Gregor Demarkian digs into a cold case that brings violence to a wealthy suburb. Alwyck is the stereotypical old money Connecticut beach town. And Chapin Waring is the worst thing that ever happened to this town. She was a well turned-out debutante from one of the richest families in Alwyck until thirty years ago when the young debutante, destined to attend the right school, marry the right man, and have the right life, was revealed to be a bank robber and a murderer. She disappeared, never to be heard from again. So when, after a day of being spotted around town, Chapin turns up dead, stabbed to death in her family's old home, it's not only baffling but wrenching to the town and its residents. To learn why she died Gregor Demarkian, retired profiler for the FBI, is brought in to finally solve the mysteries surrounding Chapin Waring. Not just how and why she died where she did, but what happened that night thirty years ago that set everything in motion.

HARRISON, CORA burren CROSS OF VENGEANCE (#10) (\$22) September, 1517: After the service which Mara attends one Sunday, a fire breaks out and destroys the famous relic of the Holy Cross in Kilnaboy Church. The next morning the body of a pilgrim is found murdered behind the church. It is up to Mara, as Brehon of the Burren, and her law students, to find out who and why.

HILTON, MATT joe hunter LAWLESS KIND (#9) (\$24) An expensive British import. Ex-counterterrorist soldier Joe Hunter has been called to Mexico to bring an end to a cartel that preys on the people they smuggle across the US border. Once the mission's ended, however, Joe's mission leader and mentor, CIA Black Ops director Walter Hayes Conrad, confesses that the bloody mission is not the real reason Joe has been summoned south of the border. For years, Walter has kept the details of his private life, especially his family, secret from everyone, even his closest friends. But disaster has struck: his great-grandson Benjamin has been abducted, kidnapped by Walter's sworn enemy, the leader of one of Mexico's largest drug cartels. Walter will do whatever it takes to get the boy back. And he knows Hunter is the man for the job. But there's one complication, the drug boss just happens to be Benjamin's father.

HOLT, JONATHAN carnivia ABOMINATION (#1) (\$16.99) It is midnight on the feast day of La Befana, and Venice is celebrating. But on the steps of Santa Maria a body has washed up from the Grand Canal: a woman, wearing the robes of a Catholic priest, a desecration known as the Abomination. This is Captain Katerina Tapo's first murder case. The trail leads her from the labyrinthine back streets of Venice to an abandoned asylum on the uninhabited island of Poveglia; to carnivia.com, an encrypted gossip website holding the city's secrets; to an ancient Catholic monastery; and finally to an American military base. Along the way, she makes uneasy allies of Lieutenant Holly Boland, a young U.S. army intelligence officer with unique ties to the country in which she's been stationed, and Daniele Barbo, a reclusive and brilliant Venetian aristocrat-turned computer- hacker who operates, and fiercely protects, carnivia.com. Then, suddenly, the trail goes cold. Evidence goes missing, and Kat is ordered to close the case. A *Marian's Pick* in the August 2014 newsletter.

HOLT, JONATHAN carnivia ABDUCTION (#2) (\$22.99) Intelligence analyst Holly Boland is trained to think differently, so when a U.S. army officer's daughter is kidnapped from a military base in Venice, Holly is sure the abductors want more than a ransom. Captain Kat Tapo has found a webcam feed embedded in the encrypted website Carnivia.com. It shows a terrified teenage girl, hooded and tied to a chair. A strand of text scrolls across the screen: "Sensory depriva-

tion is not torture." The webmaster, Daniele Barbo, creator of Carnivia, has never let the government access his servers. Why would he help Kat and Holly find the missing girl? But then secrets are unearthed from Italy's dark wartime past. Secrets that could put them all in danger. Marian says "I read this as soon as I could get a copy of it, and now have to wait for the third (and final) book in the planned trilogy. I am not quite sure I quite understood all the computer stuff in this story but I didn't care. I just thought it was terrific anyway."

HUNTER, SYLVIA IZZO MIDNIGHT QUEEN (\$17) This title is a special order by a customer but on reading the cover Marian decided to order a copy for herself. If you would like one as well, just say so. Gray's deep talent for magick has won him a place at Merlin College. But when he accompanies four fellow students on a mysterious midnight errand that ends in disaster and death, he is sent away in disgrace and without a trace of his power. He must spend the summer under the watchful eye of his domineering professor, Appius Callender, working in the gardens of Callender's country estate and hoping to recover his abilities. And it is there, toiling away on a summer afternoon, that he meets the professor's daughter. Even though she has no talent of her own, Sophie Callender longs to be educated in the lore of magick. Her father has kept her isolated at the estate and forbidden her interest; everyone knows that teaching arcane magickal theory to women is the height of impropriety. But against her father's wishes, Sophie has studied his ancient volumes on the subject. And in the tall, stammering, yet oddly charming Gray, she finally finds someone who encourages her interest and awakens new ideas and feelings. Sophie and Gray's meeting touches off a series of events that begins to unravel secrets about each of them. And after the king's closest advisor pays the professor a closed-door visit, they begin to wonder if what Gray witnessed in Oxford might be even more sinister than it seemed. They are determined to find out, no matter the cost.

HURWITZ, GREGG TELL NO LIES (\$11.99) Daniel Brasher left a high-paying job as a money manager to marry his community-organizer wife and do the work he loves, leading group counseling sessions with recently paroled ex-cons. Now he's about to start a private practice. But just before his last day on the job, Daniel finds an envelope in his department mailbox—one intended for someone else that was placed in his slot by accident. Inside it is an unsigned piece of paper, a note that says only "admit what you've done or you will bleed for it." along with a midnight deadline which has passed. And the person to whom the envelope was addressed was found brutally murdered. Soon, Daniel finds more warnings in his office mail, to people that the police cannot track down, and to victims that cannot be saved. Daniel's efforts, however, have alerted the killer to his involvement and the next threat he receives is his own. Now, Daniel, with no clue what he's supposed to have done or to what action he must confess, must somehow appease, or outwit, a seemingly unstoppable killer. And time is running out.

JANCE, J A brady OLD BLUE LINE novella (\$5.50) A novella. Butch Dixon has been taken for a ride. Not a jump in the car, see the sights kind of ride. He's been taken for everything he has. He's lost his house, his restaurant business, his savings, his car, his best friend, his faith, all to his conniving ex-wife. But that was seven years ago. He picked himself up, left Chicago, and started over in Peoria, Arizona, running the Roundhouse Bar and Grill. He doesn't look back on those bad years; there's no point. Not until two curious cops show up at the Roundhouse. Faith, Butch's ex-wife, has been murdered, and the evidence points to him. Stunned, Butch quickly realizes that the black-hearted woman is going to ruin him again, from her grave. Lucky for Butch, the Old Blue Line, a group of retired, but still sharp and tenacious, former legal and law enforcement coots, have taken it upon themselves, as a favour, to make sure he doesn't cross that thin line. After the dust settles, Butch's life is again upended when Sheriff Joanna Brady takes a seat at his bar.

JANES, J ROBERT HUNTING GROUND (\$20) In Zurich, a frail young woman sits down in a café. On her arm is a tattooed number, a souvenir from her time in Bergen-Belsen. As far as the French government is concerned, she is a dead woman, a casualty of the concentration camps. But after a narrow escape, Lily de St-Germain is back, and ready to take revenge on everyone who buried her. When the war started, Lily fled the countryside for Paris, hoping to convince her husband to abandon his work at the Louvre and help get their children to safety in England. There she found him in the arms of her sister, a betrayal that pushed her into the ranks of the Résistance, that fearful band of partisans who taught her to kill, and forced her to survive. The war may end in 1945, but Lily's battle has only just begun.

KELLER, JULIA bell elkins BITTER RIVER (#2) (\$16.99) Phone calls before dawn are never good news. And when you're the county's prosecuting attorney, calls from the sheriff are rarely good news, either. So when Bell Elkins picks up the phone she already knows she won't like what she's about to hear, but she's still not prepared for this: 16-year-old Lucinda Trimble's body has been found at the bottom of Bitter River. And Lucinda didn't drown, she was dead before her body ever hit the water. With a case like that, Bell knows the coming weeks are going to be tough. But that's not all Bell is coping with these days. Her daughter is now living with Bell's ex-husband, hours away. Sheriff Nick Fogelson, one of Bell's closest friends, is behaving oddly. Furthermore, a face from her past has resurfaced for reasons Bell can't quite figure. Searching for the truth, both behind Lucinda's murder and behind her own complicated relationships, will lead Bell down a path that might put her very life at risk. The first in the series is Killing in the Hills (\$16.99). **Ms. Keller** won a Pulitzer Prize for a news article she wrote for the Chicago Tribune in 2004.

KELLERMAN, FAYE decker MURDER 101 (#22) (\$21.99 trade paperback, \$33.50 hardcover...yikes that's expensive) Decker and Lazarus embark on a new life in upstate New York—and find themselves entangled in deception, intrigue, and murder in picturesque elite college town. As a detective lieutenant with the LAPD, Peter Decker witnessed enough ugliness and chaos for a lifetime. Now he and his spirited wife, Rina Lazarus, are ready to enjoy the quiet beauty of upstate New York, where they can be closer to their four adult children, grandchildren, and their foster son, Gabe. But working for the Greenbury Police Department isn't as fulfilling as Decker hoped. While Rina has adapted beautifully to their new surroundings, Decker is underwhelmed and frustrated by his new partner, Tyler McAdams, a former Harvard student and young buck with a bad attitude. Just when he thinks he's made a mistake, Decker is called to an actual crime, a possible break-in at the local cemetery. The call seems like a false alarm until it's discovered that a mausoleum's stunning Tiffany panels have been replaced by forgeries. Soon the case escalates into murder: a co-ed at an exclusive consortium of liberal-arts colleges is brutally slaughtered. Poking into the hallowed halls of academia to find a killer, Decker and McAdams are drawn deep into a web of nasty secrets, cold-case crimes, international intrigue, and ruthless people who kill for sport.

KELLY, DIANE DEATH TAXES AND GREEN TEA ICE CREAM (#6) (\$9.99) *Fired.* Tara Holloway can't believe it. After all she's done for the Internal Revenue Service, a few too many shots fired from her weapon and suddenly she's public enemy number one. To add insult to injury, another agent has replaced her, and a ten-million-dollar assault case is hanging over her head. So much for traveling to Tokyo with Special Agent Nick Pratt, former partner and current boyfriend. Tara's stuck in Texas, and using green tea ice cream to soothe her disappointment, as well as the terrifying prospect of a life behind bars. Tara's former boss, Lu "the Lobo" Loboinski, has a plan to stick Tara in auditing, where she can't possibly get into trouble. But between bumping into a college frenemy whose family

business is under audit, Tara's stubborn determination to keep an eye on Nick behind the scenes, and her new long-range rifle, she's about to get a taste of just how dangerous her life can be.

KELLY, DIANE DEATH TAXES AND SILVER SPURS (#7) (\$9.99) IRS Special Agent Tara Holloway has just been given her best assignment ever: to collect taxes owed by her celebrity crush, country-western superstar Brazos Rivers. While the sexy Brazos has made millions through CD sales and endorsements, he's never filed a tax return or paid a penny to Uncle Sam. But surely his failure to pay is a mere oversight, right? After all, how can he think about taxes when he's been busy touring, writing, and starring in Tara's dreams?

KEPLER, LARS linna SANDMAN (#4) (\$24.95) During a cold winter night in Stockholm a man is found walking alongside a railway bridge, suffering from hypothermia and legionella. After he's rushed to the hospital, it's discovered that, according to a death certificate, the man has been dead for over seven years. He is believed to be a victim of notorious serial killer Jurek Walter, who was arrested years ago by Detective Inspector Joona Linna and sentenced to a life of total isolation in forensic psychiatric care. As Joona Linna investigates where the "dead man" has been all these years, some unexpected evidence leads to the reopening of a cold case.

KINGSLEY, ALLISON raven EXTRA SENSORY DECEPTION (#4) (\$9.99) As the owners of the Raven's Nest bookstore, cousins Stephanie and Clara Quinn are the premier booksellers in the quaint town of Finn's Harbor, Maine. But with Clara's inherited ability to read minds and see the future, she's also the premier crime solver. You don't have to be a psychic to know: The rodeo is coming to town! Clara's boyfriend, Rick Sanders, invites her to the show to meet his high school buddy and expert calf roper, Wes Carlton. But when Clara's Quinn Sense offers her a disturbing vision involving a rodeo clown, she worries that there will be more danger at the rodeo than just the traditional bucking bronco. Of course, her premonition turns out to be accurate, and a dead body is discovered behind the concert stage, strangled by Wes's piggin' string. Rick is sure that there's no way Wes could have murdered anyone, but he's going to need Clara's Quinn Sense to keep the authorities from roping the wrong suspect. The first three titles in the series are Mind Over Murder, Sinister Sense and Trouble Vision (\$8.99 each).

LA PLANTE, LYNDA BELLA MAFIA (\$24) An expensive British import. Originally published in 1990 Marian remembers reading it and says it was gripping and excellent. We can get you a copy as well, just say the word. Don Roberto Luciano turns informer for the biggest Mafia trial in history, but his family pays a terrible price. The head of the family, his three sons, his two grandsons and his nephew are all killed leaving the five widows to reclaim their inheritance from a dangerous Mafioso.

LAND, JON strong STRONG RAIN FALLING (#5) (\$9.99) Mexico, 1919: The birth of the Mexican drug trade begins with opium being smuggled across the US border, igniting an all-out battle with American law enforcement in general and the Texas Rangers in particular. Today: Fifth Generation Texas Ranger Caitlin Strong and Cort Wesley Masters both survive terrifying gun battles. But it turns out the actual targets were Masters's teenage sons and sets Caitlin and Cort Wesley off on a trail winding through the past and present with terrible truths dating all the way back to the Mexican Revolution and the dogged battle Caitlin's own grandfather and great-grandfather fought against the first generation of Mexican drug dealers.

LANGLEY-HAWTHORNE, CLARE UNLIKELY TRAITORS (#3) (\$19) Ursula Marlow thought she was done with death, but when her fiancé, Lord Wrotham, is arrested on charges of treason, her world is turned upside down. It is the winter of 1913, and the British Parliament, unsettled on the question of Home Rule for Ireland, is shaken over allegations of a plot to sell naval military secrets to Kaiser's Germany and liberate Ireland from English rule. For the first

time, Ursula must work together with Chief Inspector Harrison to uncover the truth about Lord Wrotham's involvement, as well as his mysterious past. As the investigation continues, Ursula is drawn into the shadowy world of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and a web of espionage and betrayal. She must race against time to clear Lord Wrotham's name and thwart a plot that threatens not only British national security, but also her life. The first two in the series are Consequence of Sin (\$16.50) and Serpent and the Scorpion (\$20).

LEE, ALAN L SANDSTORM (\$11.99) Lurking in the shadows, a secret partnership exists between an Israeli spymaster pulling the strings of the most efficient killing machine the Mossad has to offer and an exclusive billionaire boys club that wants to dictate the New World Order. Success means vast wealth and increased power, and they'll stop at nothing to succeed. CIA operative Nora Mossa is trained to kill when necessary. But being efficient, deadly, and beautiful won't be enough to protect her after her mentor is assassinated. With everyone in the Agency suspect, Nora turns to the only person capable of keeping her alive, her former lover and ex-CIA agent Alex Koves. They must stay alive long enough to understand a deadly plot capable of killing thousands. And the clock is ticking.

LEHANE, DENNIS DROP (\$18.50) *The Drop* follows lonely bartender Bob Saginowski through a covert scheme of funneling cash to local gangsters, "money drops", in the underworld of Boston bars. Under the heavy hand of his employer and cousin, Marv, Bob finds himself at the centre of a robbery gone awry and entwined in an investigation that digs deep into the past of a neighborhood where friends, families, and foes all work together to make a living, no matter the cost. This is the novelization of the movie's screen play which was written by **Mr. Lehane**.

LEMAITRE, PIERRE camille ALEX (#1) (\$14.99) Here is a "cut and paste" of what JD had to say when he chose this title as one of his picks in an earlier newsletter. "...*The Daily Mail* calls it "Diabolical...a tour de force" and it was the winner of the 2013 Crime Writers Association International Dagger Award. *Publishers Weekly* said "Impressive...will keep readers turning the pages" and gave it a Starred review. You can see why I wanted to read it. But I'm a bit of a wuss and the first paragraph of the blurb—Alex Prévost—kidnapped, savagely beaten, suspended from the ceiling of an abandoned warehouse in a tiny wooden cage—is running out of time. Her abductor appears to want only to watch her die. Will hunger, thirst, or the rats get her first?—was more than enough to give me the shivers so I never did get around to reading it. However, I told myself that this is only fiction, and go on, suck it up, so I finally picked it up. The book is all of the above: a terrific read, darker than night, compelling and not easily put down, but cruel, with characters that are totally fascinating. I approached it warily, with trepidation, but was soon totally engrossed. I won't tell you anymore about the book, other than to say that this is the first of a trilogy featuring Police Commandant Camille Verhoeven and the second in the series, Irene, is due mid-2014. And I'm looking forward to it greatly."

LOGAN, KYLIE chili DEATH BY DEVIL'S BREATH (#2) (\$9.99) In Las Vegas, the stakes are high and so is the Scoville scale. Maxie Pierce and the Chili Showdown are in town for a very heated contest devoted to judging the legendary and notorious-for-being-self-combustible Devil's Breath chili. The guest judges are casino performers with a taste for chili and an eye for publicity. Maxie is already going mad organizing the event, dealing with her snide half sister, Sylvia, and trying to figure out her hothead of security, Nick. But when a local hack comedian drops dead in the middle of the Showdown, it isn't the spicy dish, it's poison. And Maxie is going to have to shuffle through a full deck of suspects to pick out the culprit. A Chili Cook-off Mystery that includes recipes. The first book is Chili Con Carnage (\$8.99).

LYLE, DIXIE TASTE FOR MURDER (#1) (\$9.99) Meet Deirdre

"Foxtrot" Lancaster. Trusted employee of eccentric zillionairess Zelda Zoransky, Foxtrot manages a mansion, a private zoo, and anything else that strikes her boss's fancy. Her job title is Administrative Assistant, but chaos handler would be more accurate. Giant ghost-beastie in Zelda's pet cemetery, animal spirits, dead cats coming back to life, and communicating telepathically, an ectoplasmic dog who changes breeds with a shake of his tail and can sniff out a clue like nobody's business.... So when a coworker drops dead while organizing closets, Tiny is on the case. Can Foxtrot and her new companions ferret out the killer among a menagerie of suspects, human and otherwise, before death takes another bite? Yikes.

MACDONALD, JANICE ROAR OF THE CROWD (#6)

(\$16.95) Wherever Randy Craig goes, trouble seems to follow. With the help of her friend Denise, Randy has landed a summer job with a high school theatre program linked to the FreeWill Shakespeare Festival. But when a local actor shows up dead and Denise is the prime suspect, Randy has to find a way to solve the mystery while surrounded with suspects who have no trouble lying to her face. Set in Edmonton, Alberta.

MACINNES, HELEN AGENT IN PLACE (\$11.95) Chuck Kelso is an idealist. When he steals a top-secret NATO memorandum, he only intends to leak it to the press; but it is soon in the hands of a Russian agent, a man who has spent nine years quietly working himself into the fabric of Washington society. Within hours it has reached the KGB, and the CIA's top man in Moscow has had his cover blown. For British agent Tony Lawton, hunting down the Russian operative, the 'agent in place', is a welcome challenge. But for Chuck's brother, the journalist Tom Kelso, and his beautiful wife, Thea, the affair has unleashed a very special terror. Now the race is on to find the Russian spy before a top-level NATO conference. But why is the escaped agent behaving so strangely? Is he who he seems?

MACINNES, HELEN HORIZON (\$11.95) British soldier Peter Lennox, a POW in an Italian prison camp, is still fighting his own war. An artist in civilian life, his hands bear the scars of wounds received during his capture at the fall of Tobruk, and he suspects he will never paint again. The only thing that sustains him is plotting his escapes, no matter how many times he is recaptured. But in September 1943 the Italians surrender to the Allies, and Lennox is free. Wanting nothing more than to return to the fighting, he is instead assigned to the mountains of the South Tyrol as a liaison to a desperate band of resistance fighters. With little more than courage and knowledge of the local terrain, Lennox and his comrades must help pave the way for an Allied push that may change the course of the war.

MACINNES, HELEN NEITHER FIVE NOR THREE (\$11.95) Paul Haydn was on his way home at last, to New York and the civilian life he longed for, after years of War. Yet he would never forget the tormented people, desperate for refuge in Berlin. They had survived the War, but now a new, sinister presence threatened them, their families, the whole of society. Now he discovered that, back home, some of his former colleagues had dangerous political sympathies, that someone was trying to discredit the woman he had once loved. The pattern seemed suddenly familiar. He began to realise why there was such interest in his counter-propaganda skills.

MACINNES, HELEN PRAY FOR A BRAVE HEART (\$11.95) It was 1953, and nothing could shake William Denning's resolve to leave the army and return to the States. Nothing, except one of the largest diamond hauls ever, which, in the wrong hands, on the wrong side of the Iron Curtain, was a potentially lethal force. In a small village in the Swiss mountains, Denning discovered that there was not only a jewellery robbery at stake. In the ruthless world of espionage and international conspiracy his adversaries were the most unlikely people and the most dangerous.

MACINNES, HELEN REST AND BE THANKFUL (\$11.95) They were worlds apart. Sarah Bly, a sophisticated career woman on

a chauffeur-driven tour of America with the wealthy Mrs Margaret Peel. Jim Brent, a tough, old-fashioned cowboy, ill at ease away from his rugged mountain ranch. Yet a wrong turn on a remote road in Wyoming unexpectedly brings them together. The discovery of the ranch house Rest and be Thankful opens Sarah's eyes to the beauty of the West and makes the brash cynicism of the city seem irrelevant. After years of travelling the world, this idyllic place could be what she's been searching for.

MALVALDI, MARCO bar lume THREE CARD MONTE (#2) (\$18) The investigative quartet, nicknamed the "senile squad," that we met in Game For Five (\$17) is back. At the Bar Lume, with the exception of the bartender Massimo and his assistant, the beautiful and kindly Tiziana, the youngest regular customer is Aldo, seventy-something owner of the Osteria Boccaccio. Then come his longtime friends, each one older than the former. Their principle, indeed their *only* activity is sitting around at the Bar Lume ostensibly playing cards but in reality analyzing, postulating, gossiping, and chronicling every event that occurs in their small Tuscan town, their talk laced with colorful Tuscan slang and figures of speech. Massimo, all intuition but tending toward inaction, is obliged to investigate a homicide on behalf of his all-too-curious clientele and by Commissario Fusco of the local police. The old-timers provide a running commentary and play devil's advocate to any and all theories concerning the perpetrators of the crime. Their cunning at three-card monte has taught them how to see past appearances to the truth that lies behind.

MANKELL, HENNING kurt EVENT IN AUTUMN (#11) (\$16.95) A novella now just published in English. Soon after Inspector Kurt Wallander moves into a new house with a charming garden, he makes an upsetting discovery: there is a hand, indeed, an entire corpse, buried in a shallow grave in the garden. It's the responsibility of the local police to handle the investigation but Wallander, even though busy with another case, is soon drawn into the search for the truth about his new home, and its previous owner.

MARTIN, ANDREW stringer NIGHT TRAIN TO JAMALPUR (#9) (\$16) North East India, 1923. On the broiling Night Mail from Calcutta to Jamalpur, a man is shot dead in a first class compartment. Detective Inspector Jim Stringer was sleeping in the next compartment along. Was he the intended target? Jim should have known that his secondment to the East Indian Railway, with a roving brief to inspect security arrangements, would not be the working holiday he had hoped for. The country seethes with political and racial tension. Aside from the Jamalpur shooting, someone is placing venomous snakes, including giant king cobras, in the first class compartments of the railway. Jim also has worries on the home front: his daughter has formed a connection with a Maharajah's son, who may in turn have a connection to Jim's incredibly rude colleague, the bristling Major Fisher. Jim must do everything he can to keep his family safe from harm, as he unravels the intrigues that surround him.

MARTIN, NANCY blackbird LITTLE BLACK BOOK OF MURDER (#9) (\$9.99) Nora Blackbird may have been to the manor borne, but these days money is so tight, she can't afford to lose her job as a society columnist. So when her new boss at the Philadelphia Intelligencer, Australian tabloid editor Gus Hardwicke, tells her to work the celebrity gossip beat or start checking the want ads, the choice is easy. Now Nora's writing a profile on billionaire fashion designer Swain Starr, who recently retired to build a high-tech organic farm with his new wife, Zephyr, a former supermodel. But before Nora can get the story, the mogul is murdered. And now Gus wants her to snap up an exclusive on who killed Starr before the cops do.

MASTERTON, GRAHAM maguire WHITE BONES (#1) aka terrible beauty (\$18) One wet November morning, a field on Meagher's Farm gives up the dismembered bones of 11 women. In this part of Ireland, unmarked graves are common, but these bones date to 1915, long before the Troubles. What's more, these bones bear the marks of

a meticulous executioner. These women were almost certainly skinned alive. Detective Katie Maguire is used to dead bodies. But this is wholesale butchery. Her team thinks these long-dead women are a waste of police time. Katie is determined to give them justice. And then a young American tourist goes missing, and her bones, carefully stripped of flesh, are discovered on the same farm. With the crimes of the past echoing in the present, Katie must solve a decades-old ritualistic murder before this terrifying killer strikes again. Originally titled *A Terrible Beauty* and published in 2003.

MASTERTON, GRAHAM maguire *BROKEN ANGELS (#2)* (\$16) One cold spring morning in County Cork, two fishermen find a bundle of rags floating in the Blackwater River. It is the bloated body of Father Heaney. His hands and feet are bound, and his neck bears the marks of garrotting wire. Worse still, he has been castrated. When a second priest is found murdered, his body bruised and beaten and the same savage wound hidden beneath his soutane, Detective Inspector Katie Maguire finds evidence of a sinister cover-up at St Joseph's Orphanage. But the Catholic diocese still wields considerable power here, and the Garda are under pressure to close the case. Katie has to work alone if she is to catch the killer in time, but first she must shatter a wall of silence that for decades has hidden a terrible secret.

MASTERTON, GRAHAM maguire *RED LIGHT (#3)* (\$22) In a grimy flat in the city of Cork, a burly man lies dead on a bloodstained mattress. His face is unrecognizable: seven gunshots have shattered cartilage and bone. Yet D.S. Katie Maguire, of the Irish Garda, knows exactly who he is. Amir Xaaji Maxamed, a Somali pimp she has unsuccessfully been trying to convict for years. Katie knows it's her job to catch the killer. But Maxamed was an evil man who trafficked young girls into Ireland to be sold for sex, and now that he's dead, the city is a safer place. When a second pimp is killed, Katie must decide. Are these vigilante murders justified? And how can she stop them spiraling out of control?

MEDIAEVAL MURDERERS *FALSE VIRGIN* (\$24) An expensive British import. AD 848. Bernwyn of Lythe, the young daughter of an ealdorman, spurns marriage and chooses to remain a virgin dedicated to Christ. When she is found murdered in the chapel where she kept her nightly vigils, it is thought that she has fallen victim to the Viking raiders who are ravaging the country and the butterflies found resting on her body are taken to be a sign from God. But what if Bernwyn was not all she seemed? Could the saintly deeds attributed to her have been carried out by someone else and the people have set up a shrine to a false virgin? Throughout the ages, St Bernwyn comes to be regarded as the patron saint of those suffering from skin diseases, and many are drawn on pilgrimage to her shrines. But from a priory in Wales to the Greek island of Sifnos, it seems that anywhere that St Bernwyn is venerated, bitter rivalry breaks out. So when a famous poet is inspired to tell the story of the saint, perhaps it is little wonder that he finds himself writing a satirical piece on the credulity of man.

MINA, DENISE garnethill *EXILE (#2)* (\$18) This is the second in the "Garnethill Series" and was originally published in 2000. Trying to escape her own troubled past and the memories of her lover's murder, Maureen O'Donnell finds refuge working as a counselor at a shelter for battered women. When the body of shelter resident Ann Harris washes up on the banks of the Thames River two weeks later, Maureen vows to discover what happened and to prove that Ann's husband is not to blame. Taking her search to London, Maureen soon encounters disturbing truths about Ann's hidden past - including a secret that has Maureen fighting for her life. The first and third in the series are *Garnethill* and *Resolution* (\$18 each).

MINATO, KANAE *CONFESSIONS* (\$17) After calling off her engagement in the wake of a tragic revelation, Yuko Moriguchi had nothing to live for except her only child, four-year-old child, Manami. Now, following an accident on the grounds of the middle school

where she teaches, Yuko has given up and tendered her resignation. But first she has one last lecture to deliver. She tells a story that upends everything her students ever thought they knew about two of their peers, and sets in motion a diabolical plot for revenge.

MORAN, TERRIE FARLEY *WELL READ THEN DEAD (#1)* (\$9.99) Nestled in the barrier islands of Florida's Gulf Coast, Fort Myers Beach is home to Mary "Sassy" Cabot and Bridget Mayfield—owners of the bookstore café, Read 'Em and Eat. But when they're not dishing about books or serving up scones, Sassy and Bridget are keeping tabs on hard-boiled murder.

MOSBY, STEVE *NIGHTMARE PLACE* (\$22.99 trade paperback, \$32.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

MUIR, FRANK gilchrist *EYE FOR AN EYE (#1)* (\$9.99) The misty streets of St Andrews provide the setting for the bloody attacks of an unhinged serial killer. Six men have been brutally murdered; all known wife beaters. It is DI Andy Gilchrist's job to catch the perpetrator of these horrendous crimes; failure to do so meaning the end of his career. As he goes on the hunt for the killer, Gilchrist is forced to confront both his own personal demons as well as increasing pressure from invasive press and hostile superiors. When suspended from duty, he is forced to go out on a limb. With only his trusty sixth sense for support he must unravel a series of uncertain and mysterious leads. Who can he trust and who is deceiving him? As Gilchrist gets closer to his target these questions become more uncertain. The chase becomes not only a race for survival but a personal quest for his own self worth and value. A favorite author of Marian's. The other two novels in the series, *Hand for a Hand (#2)* (\$14.95) and *Tooth for a Tooth (#3)* (\$26.95, the trade paper is due November, \$14.95) were both *Marian's Picks* a while back.

NABLO, JAMES BENSON *LONG NOVEMBER* (\$13.95) First published in 1946, this novel enjoyed six different editions in nine years, making it one of the best selling Canadian novels of the post-war period. Its last appearance, as a pirated paperback, speaks to its reputation as a gritty, raw and ribald story that few publishers dared touch. This new edition is the first in sixty-seven years. This is the story Joe Mack, son of the grittier side of Cataract City – Niagara Falls – and his struggles to make something of himself; all for the love of well-to-do blonde beauty Steffie Gibson. It's about rum running booze, Chicago beer trucks, Bay Street sharpshooters, the mines of Northern Ontario and fighting the Nazis in Italy. It's also about the women, the many women –married, unmarried and widowed—who shares Joe's bed. But they mean nothing – it's Steffie he wants.

O'CONNELL, CAROL mallory *IT HAPPENS IN THE DARK (#11)* (\$11.99) The reviews called it "A Play to Die For" after the woman was found dead in the front row. It didn't seem so funny the next night, when another body was found, this time the playwright's, his throat slashed. Detective Kathy Mallory takes over, but no matter what she asks, no one seems to be giving her a straight answer. The only person—if "person" is the right word—who seems to be clear is the ghostwriter. Every night, an unseen backstage hand chalks up line changes and messages on a blackboard. And the ghostwriter is now writing Mallory into the play itself, a play about a long-ago massacre that may not be at all fictional. "MALLORY," the blackboard reads, "TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT. NOTHING PERSONAL." If Mallory can't find out who's responsible, heads will roll. Unfortunately, one of them may be her own. "Spectacular and complex" says Marian.

ORFORD, MARGIE clare hart *DADDY'S GIRL (#3)* (\$14.99) Police Captain Riedwaan Faizal's daughter is missing. He is desperate to rescue her, but, suspended from the squad, he finds himself powerless. With nobody on his side, the captain turns to investigative journalist and criminal profiler Dr. Clare Hart, whose documentary about Cape Town's missing young girls has made her a local celebrity. Clare knows that the odds of a child's survival dwindle with each passing minute. She knows that hiding her investigation from the po-

lice has its own dangers. But she will do anything to help a heartbroken father ... even if it puts all their lives at risk.

PARKER, KATE bookshop COUNTERFEIT LADY (#2) (\$17) Who would suspect antiquarian bookseller Georgia Fenchurch of leading a double life—as a private investigator for the clandestine Archivist Society in Victorian London? When England's national security is compromised, Georgia must pose as a titled lady to root out a spy... sequel to Vanishing Thief (#1) (\$16).

PARKER/BRANDMAN stone DAMNED IF YOU DO (#12) (\$11.99) The woman on the bed was barely out of her teens. She wasn't exactly beautiful, but she'd tried to make the most of her looks. And now, alone in a seedy beachfront motel, she was dead. Paradise Police Chief Jesse Stone doesn't know her name. Whoever she is, she didn't deserve to die. Jesse starts digging, only to find himself caught in the crosshairs of a bitter turf war between two ruthless pimps. And more blood will spill before it's over. Series begun by **Robert B. Parker**, now being continued by **Michael Brandman**.

PARKS, CARRIE STUART CRY FROM THE DUST (\$19.49) In 1857, a wagon train in Utah was assaulted by a group of militant Mormons calling themselves the Avenging Angels. One hundred and forty people were murdered, including unarmed men, women, and children. The Mountain Meadows Massacre remains controversial to this day—but the truth may be written on the skulls of the victims. Can a forensic artist reconstruct two centuries of suppressed history ... before it repeats itself?

PATTERSON, JAMES private PRIVATE DOWN UNDER (#6) (\$18) With the best detectives in the business, cutting edge technology and offices around the globe, there is no investigation company quite like Private. Now, at a glittering launch party overlooking the iconic Opera House, Private Sydney throws open its doors ... with **Michael White**.

PATTERSON, JAMES womens 12TH OF NEVER (\$11) Detective Lindsay Boxer's beautiful baby is born! But after only a week at home with her new daughter, Lindsay is forced to return to work to face two of the biggest cases of her career. A rising star football player for the San Francisco 49ers is the prime suspect in a grisly murder and an eccentric English professor has been having vivid nightmares about a violent murder. When a shooting is called in, and it fits the professor's description to the last detail, Lindsay knows she has one of the strangest cases on her hands. With **Maxine Paetro**.

PEARCE, ROGER kerr EXTREMIST (\$15.99) In a race down the Thames, Detective Chief Inspector John Kerr is caught in a fight to the death with two gold smugglers. The American wife of the British Defence Secretary is brutally murdered while walking her dog. A senior judge is executed in Middle Temple Lane. Blocked by 'affirmative inaction' at New Scotland Yard and threats from MI6, Kerr deploys a talented female operative undercover to force the truth. A dirty bomb attack proves the motive is hatred of the United States but is this domestic extremism or the work of foreign spies?

PERRY, LEIGH SKELETON TAKES A BOW (#2) (\$9.99) After years of hiding in the Thackery family house, Sid the skeleton is delighted to finally have his moment in the spotlight. He's starring in a high school production of Hamlet. Well, not so much starring in as being a prop. At least part of him has a part—he's using his head to play Yorick of "Alas, poor Yorick" fame. Every day Madison Thackery, who's also in the play, brings in his skull, and every night, she takes him home...Until one night when he's accidentally left at school—and hears the sounds of someone being murdered. But the next day, there's no body and no one seems to be missing. Sid is not a numbskull—he knows what he heard. Georgia thinks he imagined it—until a week later when a body is found. Now Georgia and Sid will both need to keep their heads as they stick their necks out and play sleuth to catch the conscience of a killer...Sequel to Skeleton in the Family (#1) (\$8.99).

PHILLIPS, JAYNE ANNE QUIET DELL (\$18.99) Chicago 1931. Asta Eicher, a lonely mother of three, is desperate for money after the sudden death of her husband. She begins to receive seductive letters from a chivalrous, elegant man named Harry Powers, who promises to cherish and protect her, ultimately to marry her and to care for her and her children. Weeks later, Asta and her three children are dead. Emily Thornhill, one of the few women journalists in the Chicago press, wants to understand what happened to this beautiful family. Based on a real life crime by a con man who preyed on widows.

PIKE, PENNY food truck DEATH OF A CRABBY COOK (#1) (\$9.99) When restaurant reviewer Darcy Burnett gets served a pink slip from the San Francisco Chronicle, she needs to come up with an alternative recipe for success quickly. Her feisty aunt Abby owns a tricked-out school bus, which she's converted into a hip and happening food truck, and Darcy comes aboard as a part-timer while she develops a cookbook project based on recipes from food fests in the Bay Area. But she soon finds someone's been trafficking in character assassination—literally—when a local chef turns up dead and her aunt is framed for the murder.

PRYOR, MARK marston BUTTON MAN (#0) (\$17) In this prequel to The Bookseller (#1) (\$17) former FBI profiler Hugo Marston has just become head of security at the US Embassy in London. He's asked to protect a famous movie-star couple, Dayton Harper and Ginny Ferro, who, while filming a movie in rural England, killed a local man in a hit and run. The task turns from routine to disastrous almost immediately. Before Hugo even meets them, he finds out that Ferro has disappeared, and her body has been found hanging from an oak tree in a London cemetery. Hours later a distraught Harper gives Hugo the slip, and Hugo has no idea where he's run off to.

PYNCHON, THOMAS BLEEDING EDGE (\$19) It is 2001 in New York City, in the lull between the collapse of the dot-com boom and the terrible events of September 11th. Silicon Alley is a ghost town, Web 1.0 is having adolescent angst, Google has yet to IPO, Microsoft is still considered the Evil Empire. There may not be quite as much money around as there was at the height of the tech bubble, but there's no shortage of swindlers looking to grab a piece of what's left. Enter Maxine Tarnow, running a nice little fraud investigation business on the Upper West Side, chasing down different kinds of small-scale con artists.

QUINN, PETER DRY BONES (#3) (\$17.95) As the Red Army continues its unstoppable march towards Berlin in the winter of '45, Dunne and his fellow soldier Dick Van Hull volunteer for a dangerous drop behind enemy lines to rescue a team of OSS officers trying to abet the Czech resistance. When the plan goes south, Dunne and Van Hull uncover a secret that will change both of their lives. Years later, Dunne is drawn back into the shadowy realm of Cold War espionage in an effort to clear his friend's name and right an injustice so shocking that men would, quite literally, kill to keep it quiet.

QUINN, SPENCER SOUND AND THE FURRY (#6) (\$18.99) When Chet and Bernie happen upon a prison work crew that includes Frenchie Boutette, an old criminal pal they sent up the river, getting a new case is the last thing they expect. But Frenchie, who comes from an old Louisiana family full of black sheep, needs help finding his one law-abiding relative, his brother Ralph, a reclusive inventor who has gone missing with his houseboat. Out in bayou country, Chet and Bernie meet the no-good Boutette family and their ancient enemies, the maybe-even-worse Robideaus, and at first it seems as if Ralph's disappearance is connected to a dispute over a load of stolen shrimp. But when Chet uncovers a buried clue the investigation heads in a dangerous new direction involving the oil business and an impending environmental catastrophe. Terrific, good fun, the whole series!

RESNICK, MIKE paxton CAT ON A COLD TIN ROOF (#3) (\$17) Hard-luck gumshoe Eli Paxton is hired to find a missing cat—a very important cat, it turns out, because its collar is studded with dia-

monds worth a small fortune. What starts as a routine search of animal shelters soon becomes a perilous journey through a murky underworld. Paxton finds the cat, but not the collar. Eventually, he's forced to unravel an intricate plot involving a Bolivian drug cartel. On top of all this, the temperamental widow, wealthy and with mobster ties, is more likely to throw things at Paxton than pay him for his services. All Paxton wants, well, other than to survive, is to make enough money to afford a new transmission for his broken-down car.

RICKMAN, PHIL watkins MAGUS OF HAY (#12) (\$16) A man's body is found below a waterfall. It looks like suicide or an accidental drowning until DI Frannie Bliss enters the dead man's home. What he finds there sends him to Merrily Watkins, the Diocese of Hereford's official advisor on the paranormal. It's been nearly 40 years since Hay was declared an independent state by its self-styled king, a development seen at the time as a joke, a publicity scam. But behind this pastiche a dark design was taking shape, creating a hidden history of murder and ritual-magic, the relics of which are only now becoming horribly visible. It's a situation that will take Merrily Watkins, alone for the first time in years, to the edge of madness.

ROBERTS, MARK rosen SIXTH SOUL (#1) (\$18) London is in the grip of a barbaric serial killer, dubbed Herod by the tabloid press. Four pregnant women have been abducted in quick succession, their bodies mutilated and dumped. When a fifth pregnant woman, Julia Caton, is taken from her home in the dead of night, DCI David Rosen knows that time is running out to save her...Then Rosen gets a mysterious phone call from Father Sebastian Flint, an enigmatic priest who seems to know rather too much about the abductions. When it emerges that Father Flint was once the Vatican's leading expert on the occult, the investigation takes an increasingly disturbing turn. But it isn't until Rosen discovers the existence of an ancient text—said to be the devil's answer to the bible—that the true horror of Herod's plan begins to unfold.

ROBERTS, MARK rosen WHAT SHE SAW (#2) (\$24) Peckham, south London. A nine-year-old boy crawls from a burning car and is left fighting for his life. As DCI David Rosen and his team scour the scene of the crime, a graffiti image of a sinister eye is discovered above the site of the wreckage - and with it, a series of mysterious markings etched onto the wall. Could this be a code to catch the killer? When a teenager is burned alive, evidence on his body confirms Rosen's suspicion that a cult is at work on the estate. Young children go missing in the dead of night. Each second counts as Rosen battles to find the killers and save the missing souls...

ROYES, GILLIAN shad SEA GRAPE TREE (#3) (\$18.99) Set in a sun-kissed Caribbean paradise, this third book in the Shad detective series explores a love triangle gone wrong—and how class divisions create a perfect storm of trouble.

RUTHERFORD, ANNE theatre TWELFTH NIGHT MURDER (#3) (\$17) When the body of a young boy—murdered, mutilated, and clothed in women's attire—is found under London Bridge, Constable Pepper believes him to be a member of The New Globe Players, one of the actors who specialize in women's parts. He is not, but Suzanne, summoned to make an identification, does recognize him from an encounter in the tavern the night before—as the alluring doxy who caught the eye of more than a few of the patrons. Suzanne suspects that whoever hired him for the night reacted violently when his true sex was discovered. Suzanne determines to find his killer, but first, she must uncover his identity—an investigation that leads her to one of England's wealthiest families and a powerful politician determined to keep the truth from being revealed at all costs.

RYAN, ROBERT DEAD MANS LAND (\$24) Deep in the trenches of Flanders Fields, men are dying in their thousands every day. So one more death shouldn't be a surprise. But then a body turns up with bizarre injuries, and Sherlock Holmes' former sidekick Dr John Watson, unable to fight for his country due to injury but able to

serve it through his medical expertise, finds his suspicions raised. **SANSOM, IAN guides** NORFOLK MYSTERIES (#1) (\$16.99) The first book in The County Guides to Murder series. Set in 1930s England, the books are an odyssey through England and its history. In each county, the protagonists, Stephen Sefton, a veteran of the Spanish Civil War, and his employer, the People's Professor, Swanton Morley, solve a murder. Since there are lots and lots of counties—eighty plus—does that mean another eighty plus books to follow? **SCOTT, A D** LOW ROAD (#5) (\$18.99) John McAllister has come to a crossroads, torn between the stability of his life in the Highlands and the thrill of working as a renowned journalist in Glasgow at a national daily newspaper. Can he accept that this exciting new phase is over? That it is time to settle down? Before he knows it, McAllister is in the midst of a fast-paced hunt for his good friend Jimmy McPhee, who is involved in a blood feud with a murderous razor gang. With a fiercely ambitious young crime reporter, he tracks down Jimmy, but the gang finds them. Only when another violent clash breaks out do they have the chance to escape. Soon McAllister finds himself in danger of losing everything he holds dear—his mother, his fiancée, his friends, his integrity, and his life. And Joanne Ross, recovering from horrific injuries, senses McAllister's ambivalence about their forthcoming marriage, and she knows she can only wait for him to return to her.

SHELTON, PAIGE school IF CATFISH HAD NINE LIVES (#4) (\$9.99) With Gram's Country Cooking School on spring break, Betts and Gram are taking part in this year's cowboy poetry convention, offering lessons on frying catfish over an open campfire. But when a staged gunfight ends in real death and her brother Teddy becomes a prime suspect, Betts may be the one to jump from the frying pan into the fire.

SIMENON, GEORGES NIGHT AT THE CROSSROADS and YELLOW DOG (\$12 each) Two more re-issues.

SINCLAIR, JOHN GORDON SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN (\$15) Danny McGuire doesn't like his job, but he's good at it. Since his brother's murder eight years ago he has become a professional killer: a hit man for hire, bent on retribution. His next assignment, Thevshi, however, claims to know who's responsible for his brother's death.

So Danny needs to talk to him first. *A Marian's Pick* a year or so ago. **SMITH, ALEXANDER** SUNSHINE ON SCOTLAND STREET (#8) (\$21) Scotland Street witnesses the wedding of the century of Angus Lordie to Domenica Macdonald, but as the newlyweds depart on their honeymoon, Edinburgh is in disarray. However, the residents of Scotland Street rally, and order is restored by the combined effects of understanding, kindness and, most of all, friendship.

SMITH, DAN RED WINTER (\$15.99) It is 1920, central Russia. The Red Terror tightens its hold. Kolya has deserted his Red Army unit and returns home to bury his brother and reunite with his wife and sons. But he finds the village silent and empty. The men have been massacred in the forest. The women and children have disappeared. In this remote, rural Russian community the folk tales mothers tell their children by candlelight take on powerful significance and the terrifying legend of Koschei, The Deathless One, begins to feel very real. Kolya sets out on a journey through dense, haunting forests and across vast plains as bitter winter sets in, in the desperate hope he will find his wife and two boys, and find them alive. But there are very dark things in Kolya's past. And, as he strives to find his family, there's someone or something on his trail...

STAINCLIFFE, CATH LETTERS TO MY DAUGHTER'S KILLER (\$18) Grandmother Ruth Sutton writes to the man she hates more than anyone else on the planet: the man who she believes killed her daughter Lizzie in a brutal attack four years earlier. Ruth's burden of grief and hatred, has only grown heavier with the passing of time, her avid desire for vengeance ever stronger. In writing to him Ruth hopes to exorcise the corrosive emotions that are destroying her life,

to find the truth and with it release and a way forward. Whether she can ever truly forgive him is another matter - but the letters are her last, best hope. *Letters To My Daughter's Killer* exposes the aftermath of violent crime for an ordinary family and explores fundamental questions of crime and punishment. How do we deal with the very human desire for revenge? If we get justice does reconciliation follow? Can we really forgive those who do us the gravest wrong? Could you?

STOCKWIN, JULIAN kidd ADMIRAL'S DAUGHTER (#8) (\$14.99) 1803. Commander Kydd is about to discover that the most dangerous waters can be closest to home.

STOCKWIN, JULIAN kidd TREACHERY (#9) (\$14.99) After offending an Admiral and suffering terrible personal tragedy, Kydd is sent to guard the Channel Islands. When he is brutally betrayed off the Normandy Coast and dismissed from his ship, only his friend, Renzi, is willing to stick by him. Kydd is given the chance to return to the sea as a captain of a privateer. A lone wolf of the seas, Kydd and his men keep fighting their country's battle and hope to capture the wealthy French traders and heavily armed fighting ships returning to Bonaparte.

SULLIVAN, MARK monarch OUTLAW (#2) (\$11.99) The U.S. Secretary of State and the foreign ministers of China and India have been kidnapped. The "Sons of Prophecy" take responsibility and issue an ultimatum: If their demands are not met in seven days, the three will be beheaded live on the Internet. With the presidential election in only eight days, The President has few options—he can't meet their demands and he can't let them be executed. In desperation, he calls upon former CIA operative and master thief Robin Monarch.

SWEENEY, LEANN cats in trouble CAT, THE VAGABOND AND THE VICTIM (#6) (\$9.99) When Clyde the cat travels two hundred miles back home only to find his former owner dead, the story makes national news. While everyone seems eager to tell Clyde's incredible tale, someone needs to step up to care for him. Because the media attention is creating chaos at the local shelter, cat quilter Jillian Hart agrees to foster the loyal orange tabby, hoping his location is kept secret. But while the media circus around Clyde continues, Jillian learns the real story behind his owner's death—he was murdered. Why would an elderly man already dying from a serious illness become a murder victim? Then Clyde makes another escape, again returns to his home, and, again, he's found another body. Is Clyde in danger of becoming the next victim?

TODD, CHARLES crawford UNWILLING ACCOMPLICE (#6) (\$21.99 trade paperback, \$31.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

VARIOUS INHERIT THE DEAD (\$18) Pericles "Perry" Christo is a PI with a past—a former cop who lost his badge and his family when a corruption scandal left him broke and disgraced. So when wealthy Upper East Side matron Julia Drusilla summons him one cold February night, he grabs what seems to be a straightforward (and lucrative) case. The shtick here is twenty writers—**BLOCK, BILLINGHAM, BOX, BRUEN, MCDERMID, ROZAN, STABENOW** and thirteen others—have contributed a chapter each.

WAGNER, JAN COSTIN joenta LIGHT IN A DARK HOUSE (#4) (\$18.99) Finnish detective Kimmo Joentaa is called to the local hospital in which his young wife died several years before. An unidentified woman in a coma has been murdered by someone who wept over the body, their tears staining the sheets around her. The death marks the start of a series of killings, with the unknown patient at their centre.

WANGERSKY, RUSSELL WALT (\$22.95) Walt, a grocery store cleaner, collects the shopping lists people leave in the store and discard without thought. In his fifties, abandoned, he says, by his now-missing wife Mary, Walt is pursued by police detectives unsatisfied with the answers he's given about her disappearance. Almost invis-

ble to the people who pass him every day, the grocery lists he collects, written on everything from cancelled cheques to mortgage statements to office stationary, give him a personal hold over those who both ignore him and unwittingly disclose facets of their lives to him. Set in St. John's.

WHITE, NEIL parker NEXT TO DIE (#1) (\$15.99) Joe Parker is Manchester's most ingenious criminal defence lawyer. Sam Parker is Manchester's most tenacious homicide detective. Both bear the burden of the unsolved murder of their sister fifteen years earlier. And both have a stake in a new series of murders that has shaken their city to its core. Ronnie Bagley is awaiting trial for the murder of his girlfriend and baby. Two weeks before he's due in court he suddenly fires his defence team, claiming that there's only one lawyer he wants to defend him: Joe Parker. Despite his misgivings about taking on the case in such strange circumstances, Joe decides to represent Bagley. Little does he know that Bagley is smarter than anyone has given him credit for, and soon Joe will find himself pitched against his own brother, Sam, in a race to outwit the most terrifying serial killer the city has ever seen. The sequel, Death Collector (#2) (\$22.99), was published a couple of months ago.

WHITE, RANDY WAYNE smith DECEIVED (#2) (\$11.99) A twenty-year-old unsolved murder from Florida's pot hauling days gets Hannah Smith's attention, but so does a more immediate problem. A private museum devoted solely to the state's earliest settlers and pioneers has been announced, and many of Hannah's friends and neighbours in Sulfur Wells are being pressured to make contributions. The problem is, the whole thing is a scam, and when Hannah sets out to uncover whoever's behind it, she discovers that things are even worse than she thought. The museum scam is a front for a real estate power play, her entire village is in danger of being wiped out and the forces behind it have no intention of letting anything, or anyone, stand in their way.

WHITE, STEPHEN gregory COMPOUND FRACTURES (#20) (\$11.99) Nothing is as it seems to Alan, as unexpected threats and intimate betrayals force him to revisit a cruel ethical dilemma that turned his life upside down as a young psychologist. He has to judge whether the people reentering his life after long absences are friends or foes. He has to make sense of echoes of distant tragedies while he decides if there is anyone he can really trust. And as the clock ticks down, he must solve a deadly mystery in Eldorado Springs that has been brewing for more than a decade...

WHITLOW, ROBERT CONFESSION (\$19.49) Assistant DA Holt Douglas has made a career of getting confessions from criminals. With a confession in hand, he knows a guilty plea is soon to follow. In the midst of professional success, Holt is haunted by a secret—a lie he buried in the grave of his best friend. Holt's crime is hidden from all eyes—family, friends, police, and his soon-to-be fiancé. But the truth has a way of coming back to life and it's not long before he comes face-to-face with his own guilty conscience.

WIEBE, SAM vancouver noir LAST OF THE INDEPENDENTS (#1) (\$17.99) An excellent debut. See *Marian's* and *JD's Picks*.

WOOD, TOM victor NO TOMORROW (#4) aka Better off Dead (\$11.99) When Victor is called to meet with an old friend who ultimately betrayed him, what he thought was an ambush is in fact a plea for help. As a Russian gangster, Norimov is accustomed to death threats, but now an unknown enemy wants more than his life. They intend to kill everyone he cares about, including his missing daughter Gisele. This time, Victor's job is not to kill but to protect. Unfortunately, locating Gisele is his first mistake—because someone is watching his every move. Before she went into hiding, Gisele had uncovered a secret worth killing for—and now Victor has brought the enemy right to her doorstep. The least he can do is help her escape. But the ruthless network they're up against has the police, MI5, and every major news outlet joining in the manhunt across London.